



5055 Santa Teresa Blvd  
Gilroy, CA 95023

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## Course Outline

**COURSE:** SOC 21                      **DIVISION:** 10                      **ALSO LISTED AS:**

**TERM EFFECTIVE:** Fall 2022

**CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 05/10/2022

**SHORT TITLE:** MARRIAGE & FAMILY

**LONG TITLE:** Marriage and the Family

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours</u>
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

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Out of Class Hrs:            108.00

Total Learning Hrs:        162.00

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Overview of the sociological study of the family as a social institution. Examines historical and contemporary family patterns, theoretical perspectives regarding family roles and formation, and the effect of the economy, public policy, and other social institutions on families. Emphasis placed on gender, sexuality, social class, and racial/ethnic diversity in American families. (C-ID: SOCI 130)

**CREDIT STATUS:** D - Credit - Degree Applicable

### GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

**REPEATABILITY:** N - Course may not be repeated

### SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion

05 - Hybrid

71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous

72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Identify current and historical trends in marriage and family formation in the United States using evidence from the course materials
2. Discuss sociological theories explaining aspects of family life (e.g. parenting, family violence, divorce).
3. Identify role of gender, race, social class, and/or sexuality in family dynamics.
4. Critique public policy related to marriage and family, and assess its impact on your own lived experience.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Learn about the major theoretical paradigms and how they are applied to the study of family.
2. Learn about the historical changes in family structure in the United States.
3. Learn the explanations for poverty, the effects of poverty, and possible solutions proposed by sociologists.
4. Learn about the ways that the American race system may influence family structure.
5. Learn about how immigration policy affects family life.
6. Learn how the gender system influences family life and the ways that parents shape and reinforce cultural expectations of sexuality and gender.
7. Learn about changes in dating, courtship, and mate selection over time.
8. Learn about the historical changes in perceptions of parenthood.
9. Learn about typologies of parenthood (e.g. Baumrind's typology, Lareau's concerted cultivation and accomplishment of natural growth).
10. Learn about the social, legal, and economic barriers to becoming a parent for LGB individuals and couples.
11. Learn about fertility rates and trends in the United States and how they compare globally.
12. Learn about perceptions and patterns of adoption as a family form (e.g. the adoption triad, stigmatization, etc.)
13. Learn about how sociologists study work and family life balance.
14. Learn about issues related to aging and how public and private safety nets are conceptualized.
15. Learn about various theoretical perspectives of family violence and Intimate Partner Violence.
16. Learn about current and historical trends in divorce in the United States and how divorce affects children.
17. Learn about current and historical trends of stepfamilies in the United States and how these families function.
18. Learn about how social policies impact family life.

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

Curriculum Approval Date: 05/10/2022

### **Sociological Perspectives on the Family**

(4 hours)

Theoretical and methodological approaches to the sociological study of marriage and family. Students will be able to identify major theoretical frameworks (e.g. functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interaction, exchange theory, feminist theory) and methodological approaches (e.g. data sources, qualitative and quantitative methods) used to study contemporary family arrangements and the institution of marriage.

### **The History of the (American) Family**

(3 hours)

The study of the history of marriage and family. Students will be able to list major historical events which influenced the institution of marriage and the family (e.g. industrial revolution, The Great Depression) and evaluate the current state of marriage using an historical perspective. Particular attention will be paid to competing perspectives of family / marital decline and family change.

### **Social Class and Family**

(4 hours)

Students will explore the role of social class in family formation, functioning, and outcomes. Topics include social and cultural capital, the intergenerational transmission of wealth, social mobility, poverty and homelessness, and the effects of social class on parenting and childhood outcomes.

### **Race and Family**

(4 hours)

Students will explore the relationship between the racial structure and family. Students will be able to identify racial diversity in family, racialized patterns in family functioning and formation, and the role that institutionalized racism plays in family and child outcomes. The effect of immigration policy on families in the United States will also be explored.

### **Gender and Family**

(4 hours)

Students will explore the relationship between the gender system and family. Students will be able to identify and apply gender theories (e.g. gender as a social structure, ?doing gender?, the social construction of gender, gender essentialism, sex roles) to current and historical family dynamics. Particular attention will be paid to gender socialization, gender roles, and the reproduction and resistance of gender based inequality within the family.

### **Sexuality and Family**

(3 hours)

This unit will explore the sociological study of love and intimate relationships. Topics to be covered include: theories of love and intimacy, marital and non-marital sexuality, infidelity, sexual socialization, sexual orientation, and sex education.

### **Marriage, Cohabitation, and Mate Selection**

(4 hours)

This unit will explore changes in the institution of marriage and the mate selection process. Topics will include: shift from institutional marriage to individual marriage, assortative mating and the marriage market, changes in dating and courtship practices, marital quality, and trends in cohabitation, delaying of marriage, and the marriage gap.

### **Parenting and Childhood**

(4 hours)

In this unit, students will explore historical and contemporary parenting practices and cultural beliefs regarding childrearing. Topics include Baumrind's typology, Lareau's concepts of concerted cultivation and natural growth, pronatalism, benefits and costs of having children, and perspectives on mothering and fathering as identities and activities. Research on same-sex parents will also be explored.

### **Fertility, Infertility, and Adoption**

## **COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):**

(3 hours)

This unit explores fertility and infertility using both sociological and demography perspectives. Topics include changes in fertility rates, birth control and (un)planned pregnancy, the medicalization of pregnancy and birth, responses to infertility (e.g. in-vitro fertilization, insemination). Adoption, foster care, and surrogacy are also discussed as both responses to infertility and alternative pathways to parenthood.

### **Work and Family**

(4 hours)

This unit explores the role of paid and unpaid work within the private and public spheres and its effect on family functioning. The division of household labor, childrearing, and other care work are discussed with particular emphasis on gender inequality. Family leave policy, work-family balance, and the second shift will be explored in-depth.

### **Aging and Families across Generations**

(3 hours)

This unit explores the process of aging and the changing roles of grandparents in contemporary families. Particular attention will be paid to health and well-being of aging adults and cultural expectations attached to various life stages.

### **Family Violence**

(3 hours)

This unit will explore trends in various types of family violence (e.g. intimate partner violence, child abuse, sibling abuse, elder abuse, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse) and sociological theories of family violence (e.g. Johnson's typology, social learning theory, frustration-aggression, resource theories, and feminist theories). Students will also explore issues regarding data collection of family violence (surveys, shelters, courts, etc.) and how these issues have influenced public policy related to prevention of violence.

### **Divorce**

(3 hours)

This unit will provide an exploration of historical and current trends in divorce, public perceptions of divorce, sociological theories (both micro and macro) that explain divorce, the effects of divorce on children, parenting after divorce, and the consequences of divorce for society. Students will also explore "the case for divorce" to determine under what circumstances divorce can be detrimental or beneficial for children and adults.

### **Stepfamilies**

(3 hours)

This unit will provide students the opportunity to explore stepfamily formations. Particular attention will be paid to the dynamics of stepfamilies (e.g. roles of step-parents, children's adjustment, and relationships between various members of the stepfamily unit). Examination of current laws relating to rights and responsibilities of step parents and their stepchildren will also be included.

### **Future of Families and Family Policy**

(3 hours)

This unit explores theories of how families may change in the future. Particular attention will be paid to current debates about public policy meant to regulate and encourage specific marriage and family forms.

### **Final Exam (2 hours)**

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Instruction will include lecture, group discussion, and small group activities.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

Required Outside Hours 58

Assignment Description

Complete assigned readings and view required films/videos.

Required Outside Hours 50

Assignment Description

Complete written assignments, such as research papers, reflective essays, and reading reflections.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Written homework and term papers.

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Multiple choice, true/false, short answer essay.

**REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:**

The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change. 3rd Edition, Cohen, Philip, Norton, 2021.

ISBN: 978-0-393-53731-4

Rationale: This textbook is considered a leading text in family sociology. Faculty in the sociology program agreed that this would be an ideal text to use.

12+ Grade Verified by: Nicholas Park

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER MATERIALS:**

Families as They Really Are, 2nd Edition, Barbara Risman & Virginia Rutter, Norton, 2015.

ISBN: 978-0-393-93767-1

Rationale: This book is highly recommended as a reader or primary text. Each chapter is written by experts in subfields of sociology. Should a third edition become available, faculty are encouraged to use it.

12+ Grade Verified by: Nicholas Park

**ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Associate Degree:

GAV E2

GAV Area 4 = Social & Behavior

GAV Area 7 = Life Learn & Dev

CSU GE:

CSU E

CSU E2

IGETC:

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Not Transferable

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

C-ID: (SOCI 130)

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Course Control Number: CCC000274886

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 220800