

**Date:** Spring 2006

- I. Course Name:** Marriage and Family: The American Family  
**Prefix and Number:** SOC 120  
**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description:**

The course deals with marriage, family life, and alternate life styles in our society. The traditional structure is examined, with considerable emphasis placed on changes taking place, self-understanding, and areas of individual interest. Prerequisite: SOC 100 or permission of the instructor.

**II. Course Objectives and Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes:** This course is designed to expose students to an overview of the family through a sociological perspective. Such basis of the course will consist of contemporary perspectives at a macro and micro level. Students will identify:

- 1) The major functions of the family
- 2) How the family is impacted by social class and gender
- 3) The transformation of sex/gender roles in American culture, and
- 4) Dating arrangements in human groups both historically and culturally.

**Relationship to Academic programs and Curriculum:** This course is considered to be a liberal arts elective, a social science elective and a general elective.

**College competencies addressed by the course:** writing, oral communication, reading, computer literacy, professional competency, problem solving, ethics/values, citizenship, global concerns, and information resources.

**III. Methods of Instruction**

- Types of course materials: textbooks, periodicals, computer media
- Methods of instruction: lecture, multi-media, discussion, group work
- Method of Evaluation: tests, group work, written assignments
- Assessment measures: attendance, participation, absences

**IV. General Outline of Topics covered**

Topics covered will include but are not limited to:

- The Changing Family
- Marriage
- Love and Relationships
- Sexuality
- Dating and Mate Selection