

**JEFFERSON COLLEGE**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SOC240**

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY**

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:  
Brenda N. Bauch, M.S.S.

Revised by: Susan E. Welch  
September 12, 2012

Minor Revision or Update by: Fran Moore  
Per Curriculum Committee Process Change: April 25, 2018

Sandy Frey, Division Chair  
Shirley Davenport, Dean, Arts & Science Education

## SOC240 Marriage & Family

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

- A. Prerequisites:
- Reading proficiency
  - General Sociology (SOC101) or General Psychology (PSY101), with a “C” grade or better
- B. Credit hour award: 3
- C. Marriage & Family explores the scientific developments (empirical, theoretical, and applied) which have occurred in the sociological research on courtship, mate selection, marriage, parenthood, family disorganization, divorce, and remarriage. (F, S, O, D)
- D. Curricular alignment: Elective course applies toward AA or AAT degree.

### II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/CORRESPONDING ASSESSMENT MEASURES

Expected Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
Examine, analyze and explain the evolution of marriage and family from past to present, incorporating knowledge of the major theories and social science research methods	Class discussion Research project and/or presentation Written examinations
Relate the mate selection process in society, inclusive of the approaches to the study of love and commitment and distinguish between cohabitation, marriage and the single life	Research, case study analysis Reading assignments Class discussion Written examination Field observation
Describe and apply the characteristics of strong healthy families to the family life cycle	Field observation, notes and analysis Class presentations Written examination
Analyze the influence of gender roles, sexual scripts and the way that these influence changing roles and behavior in relationships and within society	Annotated bibliography Collaborative group activity Teaching/oral history of an historical event Written examination Review of current events and news articles

### III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- A. Human intimacy
1. Definition of intimacy
  2. Characteristics of families
  3. Theoretical study of family
- B. History of family

- C. American ways of love
  - 1. Defining love
  - 2. Elements of love
  - 3. Theories on love
- D. Gender roles
- E. Communication in intimate relationships
- F. Dating, single life, mate selection
- G. Human sexuality
  - 1. Changing sexual mores
  - 2. Human sexuality in the United States
  - 3. Physiology
  - 4. Marital sex
  - 5. Sex and aging
- H. Family planning
  - 1. Infertility
  - 2. Pregnancy
  - 3. Birth
- I. Parenthood
  - 1. Child development
  - 2. Parenting styles
  - 3. Discipline
- J. Family life stages
  - 1. Middle age
  - 2. Surviving spouse
- K. Economic decisions
  - 1. Federal poverty level
  - 2. Dual income families
  - 3. Strategies for communication
  - 4. Sound economic decisions & marital success
- L. Division of labor/dual worker families
- M. Families in crisis
  - 1. Nervous system
  - 2. Fight or flight
  - 3. Resiliency
- N. Dissolution of marriage
  - 1. Divorce
  - 2. Remarriage
  - 3. Blended families
  - 4. Future trends

#### IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Classroom lectures, guest lecturers
- B. Participation in active learning, including reflective activities
- C. Peer/class discussions (in class or online discussion boards)
- D. Textbook readings, supplemental readings
- E. Audio visuals-Films on Demand, videos, online media
- F. Assignments, including individual observations & projects, group projects
- G. Research paper

#### V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Cox, *Human Intimacy*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Wadsworth, 2010

#### VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- A. Access to course Blackboard page through jeffco.edu
- B. High speed internet access on a regular basis.
- C. Access to basic software, including word processing

#### VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

- A. Library Resources, Films on Demand, supplemental sociological journals and current holdings, including a current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV are sufficient for this course.
- B. Internet sites
- C. Supplemental reading lists from instructor

#### VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Textbook, supplemental readings
- B. Guest lecturers
- C. Classroom lecture
- D. Participation in active learning via classroom discussion
- E. Student presentations

F. Grading scale – standard:

90-100%=A

80-89% =B

70-79% =C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F.

IX. ADA AA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (TC 101; phone 636-481-3169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website, <http://www.jeffco.edu>).

XI. ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Any one of these four options may result in the student being removed from the class and an administrative withdrawal being processed: (1) Student fails to begin class; (2) Student ceases participation for at least two consecutive weeks; (3) Student misses 15 percent or more of the coursework; and/or (4) Student misses 15 percent or more of the course as defined by the instructor. Students earn their financial aid by regularly attending and actively participating in their coursework. If a student does not actively participate, he/she may have to return financial aid funds. Consult the College Catalog or a Student Financial Services representative for more details.

XII. OUTSIDE OF CLASS ACADEMICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that students be made aware of expectations regarding coursework to be completed outside the classroom. Students are expected to spend substantial time outside of class meetings engaging in academically related activities such as reading, studying, and completing assignments. Specifically, time spent on academically related activities outside of class combined with time spent in class meetings is expected to be a minimum of 37.5 hours over the duration of the term for each credit hour.