GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/20/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 05/18/2021

SOCIOLOGY 125 - MARRIAGE, FAMILY. ANDALTERNATE LIFESTYLES

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

SOC 125 Marriage, Family, and Alternate Lifestyles 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

An introduction to the sociological analysis of families, marriages and intimate relationships. Family life and intimate relationships in contemporary American society are examined from the perspectives of different ethnic and racial groups with a focus on the intersectionality of race, class, gender and sexuality. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of the family's relationship to economic structures, political institutions and belief systems in different socio-cultural and historical contexts. Topics include: history of the family, family diversity and inequality, socialization, sexuality, child and intimate partner violence and abuse, courtship, interracial friendships and romantic relationships, singlehood, marriage, communication patterns, parenting, adoption, divorce, remarriage, stepfamilies, widowhood, aging, and the future of the family.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Identify, compare and contrasts several sociological theoretical perspectives in the analysis of families and intimate relationships.

b. Identify and explain the principles of scientific social research methodology.

c. Appraise the range of family organizations and cultural variability in human societies.

d. Explain how family life and intimate relationships are shaped by economic structures, social stratification, political systems and globalization.

e. Explain how gender, race, ethnicity and social class shape family and intimate relationships.

f. Examine the range of intimate relationships across the life course.

g**.** Analyze communication patterns in families, marriages and other intimate relationships.

h. Appraise the variability of social and legal standards for marriage and separation/dissolution.

i. Analyze various child-rearing practices.

j. Identify and examine relevant problems and issues related to family life in contemporary U.S.

k. Appraise the future of the family and social change.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

1. Sociological theories of family and intimate relationships.
2. Scientific social research methods for family studies.
3. Family and intimacy in historical perspective.
4. Cross-cultural variations of family life.
5. Wealth, poverty and families.
6. Gender, intimacy and family.
7. Race and ethnicity in family life.
8. Social Institutions and the life course.
9. Sexuality and sexual orientation.
10. Singlehood, dating, coupling, alternatives to monogamy such as polyamory, and legal marriage.
11. Work and family.
12. Communication patterns in different intimate relationships
13. Intimate partner violence and abuse.
14. Parenthood.
15. Childhood, child rearing and child abuse.
16. Separation, divorce and remarriage.
17. Aging and intimacy.
18. Families, policy and social change.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Group discussion.

1. Structured cooperative learning exercises.
2. Streaming videos and podcasts, slides, multimedia presentations, guest speakers.
3. Discussion of library materials and textbook readings.
4. Discussion of written assignments.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on student proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, at least one of which must be a written essay. Combination of types of tests may be used along with use of computer technology in testing and self-testing. Evaluation methods may include:

1. Multiple exams throughout the term which include both objective and essay questions.
2. A comprehensive written final exam which includes both objective and essay questions.
3. Small-group and/or individual oral presentations in which students are asked to present the main findings of their research paper or examine specific lectures, required readings, discussions, films, artwork, or data presented in class.
4. Written assignments may include a research paper where students analyze a topic presented in class, such as polyamory, or the gendered division of domestic work, or parenting among LGBTQ individuals, or the role social institutions play in perpetuating a sex/gender binary.
5. Students are expected to write a minimum of 2,500 words as part of the writing requirements in the course.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Weekly required readings before class meetings.
2. Written assignments may include journals or reflection papers in which students are asked to examine specific lectures, required readings, discussions, films, artwork, or data presented in class presentations.
3. Library research including web sources.
4. Viewing, listening and analyzing streaming videos and podcasts.
5. Interviews with peers, community members and/or professionals in the field.
6. Research/term paper: may include analyzing a topic covered in class, such as intimate partner violence with emphasis on different racial and ethnic groups. Students will be required to conduct a library search of scholarly sources to support their research topic.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Texts:

1) Cohen, Philip N. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality and Social Change*, 2nd edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company Inc. 2018.

2) Chen, Annie. *The Attachment Theory Workbook: Powerful Tools to Promote Understanding, Increase Stability and Build Lasting Relationships.* Emeryville, CA. Althea Press. 2019.

1. Supplementary texts:

1) Coontz, Stephanie. *The Social Origins of Private Life: A History of American Families 1600-1900.* London, UK. Verso. 1998.

2) Coontz, Stephanie. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*. New York, NY. Basic Books. 1992

3) Klinenberg, Eric. *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*. London, England. Penguin Books Ltd. 2012

4) Wade, Lisa. *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*. New York, NY. W.W. Norton and Company Inc. 2017

5) Kao, Grace, Kara Joyner and Kelly Stamper Balistreri. *The Company We Keep: Interracial Friendships and Romantic Relationships from Adolescence to Adulthood.* New York, NY. Russell Sage Foundation. 2019.

6) Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *"Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" and Other Conversations About Race*. New York: Basic Books, 1997.

7) Hardy, Janet W. and Dossie Easton. *The Ethical Slut* 3rd edition. New York, NY. Ten Speed Press. 2017

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Compare and contrast cross-cultural family organizations and sexual behaviors.
2. Explain the influence of social class, gender, race, and ethnicity in family and sexual behavior in modern and pre-modern societies.
3. Analyze social change and globalization’s impact on emerging family patterns in the 21st century in a variety of selected societies.