

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK



MASTER SYLLABUS

SOCI 210: Sociology of the Family

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**SCHOOL of BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

Last Updated: Spring 2015

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- A. **TITLE:** Sociology of the Family
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SOCI 210
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Lecture Hours per Week for 15 Weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** 3
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
 In this course students will study the family as a key social unit with the emphasis on structure, functions, problems and future of the institution. Cross-cultural comparisons, the relationship between the family and other institutions, and family-related policies is also discussed.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
 II.

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>GER 3</u>	<u>ISLO & Sub-Sets</u>
a. Define the basic concepts, theories, and research methods pertinent to the sociology of the family.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
b. Identify and explain both the forces for stability and the causes of major social change that have had positive and negative effects on the contemporary family.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: PS
c. Compare the American family structure and functioning at different periods in American history and with families from other cultures.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
d. Contrast the functioning of American families stratified by issues such as race and ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, and religion; and consider issues of stereotyping and discrimination.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
e. Explain several contemporary issues that confront American families, such as the influence of gender on family functioning; caring relationships; human sexuality; cohabitation and marriage; work and childcare; domestic violence; divorce; and aging.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: PS
GER 3 Students will demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis. 2. Knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences. 		

KEY	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]
3	Foundational Skills Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit, /Reasoning [QTR]
4	Social Responsibility Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** No

K. **TEXTS:** To be determined by the instructor

L. **REFERENCES:**

Suggested:

Cohen, P. (2018, July). *The family*. 3rd Ed. W.W. Norton Publishing

<https://digital.wwnorton.com/thefamily3> [OER]

Other:

Benokraitis, N. (2015). *Marriages and Families*. 8th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Chaycko, Mary. *Superconnected*. 3rd edition. Sage Publishing.

Conley, Dalton. (2019) *You May Ask Yourself*. 6th edition. W.W. Norton.

Ferris, Kerry. (2020) *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*. W.W. Norton.

Griffiths, Heather. Openstax, *Sociology 2e*. Rice University

Hite, Kristen A. (2016) *Global Issues: An Introduction*. 5th edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Inderbitzen, Michelle. *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective*. Sage Publishing

Johnson, Allan. (2018) *Power, Privilege and Difference*. 3rd edition. McGraw Hill.

Lauer, R. (2019) *Marriages and Families*, 9th edition. McGraw Hill.

Miller-Perrin, Cyndi. (2017) *Violence and Maltreatment in Intimate Relationships*.

Ritzer, George. (2019) *Introduction to Sociology 5*. Sage Publishing.

Ritzer, George. (2019) *Essentials of Sociology*. Sage Publishing.

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A -F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Exams • Quizzes • Assignments • Participation/Discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
 - a. Definitions of the Family
 - b. Government
 - c. US Census Bureau
 - d. Relationships
 - e. Fictive kin
 - f. Functions of the family

- II. Sociological imagination
 - a. Social Science Research
 - b. History of the Family
 - c. Gender

- III. Socialization A. Sociologic Theoretical Perspectives
 - a. Symbolic-Interactionist Perspective
 - b. Structural-Functionalist Perspective
 - c. Social-Conflict Perspective
 - d. Feminist Perspective

- IV. Social Changes Affecting Families and Society
 - a. Inventions and Discoveries
 - b. Diffusion
 - c. Domination
 - d. Social Structural Changes
 - e. Demographic Shifts
 - f. Economic Shifts
 - g. Family Structures and Kinship Systems
 - h. Family Structures
 - i. Lineage Systems
 - j. Marriage -Definition and Types

- V. Six Economic Systems in Human Societies
 - a. Hunting and Gathering
 - b. Horticultural
 - c. Pastoral
 - d. Settled Agriculture
 - e. Industrial
 - f. Service/Technology

- VI. Modes of Production
 - a. Early Colonies -Familial Mode of Production
 - b. Late 1700's -Labor Market Mode of Production
 - c. Definitions and Cultural Variations
 - d. Sex
 - e. Gender
 - f. Gender Roles
 - g. Biology and Social Learning

- h. Biosocial Influences
- i. Social Learning -Goode
- j. Parental
- k. Mass Media
- l. Peer Groups

VII. Loving Relationships, Dating, Cohabitation, and Marriage

- a. Historical Patterns in the US
- b. Courtship -early colonies-1900
- c. Dating 1900-1980's
- d. Contemporary Patterns
- e. Six Contemporary Functions of Dating
- f. Variations in Coming of Age Customs and Courtship Customs in Different Groups
- g. Contemporary Partnering
- h. Influence of Internet dating
- i. Independent Living and Cohabitation
- j. Independent Living
- k. Cohabitation
- l. Sexual Orientation
- m. Legality of Marriage
- n. Impact on families and children
- o. Marriage
- p. The Contemporary Marriage Market
- q. The Changing Marriage Bargain
- r. Types of Marriage Patterns in the US
- s. Benefits of Marriage
- t. 1,400 laws protecting families

VIII. Cross-Cultural Comparisons

- a. China
- b. India
- c. Muslim Societies

IX. Sociological Theories

- a. Sociobiology
- b. Social Exchange

A. Family and Work

- a. Strategies for Balancing Demands of Family and Work
- b. Historical background and continuing influences
- c. Before 1960
- d. After the Civil Rights Movement -Present
- e. Historical background and continuing influences
- f. Impact of illegal immigration
- g. Largest minority in US
- h. Cultural impacts
- i. Parents and Children Micro Level -Parental Influences on Child Development
- j. Functions of the Family

- k. Types of Parenting Styles
 - l. Socialization and Social Class
 - m. Macro Level or Societal Influences on Parents and Children
 - n. Rapid Social Change
 - o. Historical Comparison of Child Well-Being
- B. Domestic Violence
- a. Historical Background of Domestic Violence in the US
 - b. Public Family in Early New England Colonies
 - c. Private Family in late 1800's Industrial Economy
 - d. 1900 -Present
 - e. Four Types of Abuse
- C. Early Warning Signs
- a. Theories
 - b. Lenore Walker -Cycle Theory of Abuse
 - c. Social Learning
 - d. Frustration-Aggression
 - e. Social-Exchange Perspective
- D. Divorce, Single Parent Families, and Remarriage
- a. Divorce Statistics and Basic Facts
 - b. Divorce in US History
 - c. Macro Level Factors -Life Expectancy, Fertility, and Social Factors
 - d. Micro Level Factors
 - e. The Process of Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage
 - f. Step Families and Blended Families
- E. Aging and the Family
- a. Historical Trends and Cross-Cultural Comparisons
 - b. Medical discoveries increasing life expectancy rates
 - c. Declining fertility rates and family care
 - d. Increasing divorce rates and family care
 - e. The Middle-Aged "Sandwich Generation"
 - f. Care for a frail aging parent/ older relative
 - g. Care for adult children and grandchildren
 - h. The Oldest Generation of the "Frail Aged"