COURSE OUTLINE

Sociology 131 (C-ID Number: SOCI 130)
Marriage and Family Living (C-ID Title: Introduction to Marriage and Family)

I. <u>Catalog Statement</u>

Sociology 131 provides a sociological analysis of the family, including historical and recent changes, present nature and the socio-cultural and economic forces shaping these changes. Major topics will include single adulthood vs. married adulthood, the nature of historical and contemporary marriages, marital compatibility and conflict, marital adjustment, family dynamic interactions, including kinship roles, children vs. childless marriage, child-rearing techniques, dissolution and speculations concerning the future of the family.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0 **Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended Preparation: English 120 or ESL 151.

Note: This course may not be taken for credit by students who have completed Psychology 131.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening/Speaking 5, Math 2.

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- 1. read and understand abstract and complex collegiate level textbooks;
- 2. communicate learning, conceptual understanding and critical analysis skills through writing research papers, essay exams, or other types of writing assignments;
- 3. learn material through class lecture, discussion, and reading;
- 4. add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals and convert fractions and decimals to percentages.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- 1. demonstrate an understanding of major sociological theories to the social institution of the family;
- 2. identify and discuss the family from cross-cultural, historical, and political perspectives;
- 3. identify the intersection among race, ethnicity, class, immigration status, age, class, gender, and sexuality within the family;
- 4. identify and understand the various kinship and family arrangements;
- 5. describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours

24 hours

- A. The Social Contexts of Marriage and Family
 - History of Marriage and Family
 - a. Early History: Recurrent Themes
 - b. Colonial America
 - c. The Victorian Family 19th Century
 - d. Families in Transition 20th Century
 - e. Families of the Future 21st Century
 - 2. The Choice to Marry
 - a. The Single Adult Lifestyle: Sexual and Emotional Options
 - b. Intermediate Relationships: Living Apart with Commitment
 - c. Marriage as a Lifestyle: Lifetime Commitment
 - 3. Developing a Relationship
 - a. Romantic Love vs. Mature Love
 - b. Pre-marital Sexuality
 - c. Creating Intimacy
 - 4. Gender Roles in Marriage and Family
 - a. Biological Sexual Differences
 - b. Traditional Gender Role Patterns in Marriage and Family
 - c. Non Traditional Gender Role Patterns in Marriage and Family
 - 5. Economics of Marriage and Family
 - a. Families and Work
 - b. Planning for Family Consumption
 - c. Planning for Family in Other Cultures
 - d. Legal Contracts in Marriage
 - 6. Marriage and Family in Other Cultures
 - a. Western Societies
 - b. Eastern Societies
- B. The Psychological Contexts of Marriage and Family

1. Communication and Conflict

24 hours

- a. Components of Communication
- b. Process of Communication
- c. Conflict Resolution Techniques
- 2. Family Planning
 - a. Childfree Marriage
 - b. Stages of Parenting: Pregnancy, Labor and Delivery
 - c. Single Child Family
 - d. Marriage and children
 - e. Stages of childhood development

3. Parenthood Preparation

- a. Pregnancy and childbirth
- b. Early years with children
- c. Adolescence: the challenge for parents
- d. The Empty Nest Era restructuring the marriage

4. Dysfunctional Families

- a. Child abuse: causes and prevention
- b. Spousal abuse: causes and prevention
- c. Emotional abuse in families
- d. Sexual abuse in families

5. Marital Dissolution

- a. Legal and social aspects of dissolution
- b. Emotional aspects of dissolution
- c. Post-dissolution parenting choices

6. The Blended Family

- a. Parental dating options (post-dissolution)
- b. Remarriage
- c. Step-parenting: roles and issues

7. Alternative Family Styles

- a. Non-traditional Marriage
- b. Cohabitation
- c. Gay families
- d. Bi-cultural families

V. <u>Methods of Instruction</u>

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

- 1. lecture/discussions;
- 2. small group projects, activities, and presentations;
- 3. multimedia:
- 4. field trips;
- 5. online.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. research papers using primary and secondary sources (i.e., theoretical analysis of the relatively high divorce rate in the U.S.).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

- 1. unit examinations;
- 2. mid-term examinations;
- 3. research papers (i.e., theoretical analysis of the relatively high divorce rate in the U.S.);
- 4. student presentations or projects (i.e., presentation on the different aspects of marriage);
- 5. final examinations.

IX. Textbooks

Lamanna, Mary Ann, and Riedmann, Agnes. *Marriage and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society.* 10th ed.

Belmont: Thomson & Wadsworth, 2009.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-49-550405-4.

Benokraitis, Nijole, *Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices and Constraints.*_7th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2011.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-20-573536-5.

X. Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. List 5 reasons why men and women might choose to live single and 5 reasons that men
 - and women give for choosing marriage;
- 2. Compare and contrast cross-cultural and cross-societal marriages;
- 3. Describe and assess changing marital and family roles from a historical perspective;
- 4. Identify family and dynamic interactions according to current family theorists;
- 5. Describe 3 different child rearing techniques;
- 6. Identify and assess California laws relating to marriage, dissolution, annulment and adoption;
- 7. Describe 3 alternative types of families.

Justification for Need

Sociology 131 aligns with Glendale Community College's Institutional Learning Outcomes. It also fulfills the requirement for the AA-T in Sociology and the general

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education requirement for the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees. Soc 131 meets the lifelong understanding and self-development requirements for the CSU general education requirements. (Transfer credits to CSU.)