

## **SOCIOLOGY 110-SOCIOLOGY OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY-3 UNITS**

Instructor: James Shinn, LCSW  
Email address: [shinnjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shinnjc@sbcglobal.net)

Soc. 110-CRN# 11406  
Class Day/Times: M  
4:30-7:40 pm

### **DESCRIPTION**

This course will be an analysis of the institutions of Marriage and the Family. The evolution of marriage and the family will be discussed from historical, cultural and economic perspectives and the theories will be used to explain behavior and functioning. Concepts of love, intimacy, sexuality, power, kinship, roles and mate selection will be covered. Marital functioning and difficulties will be discussed in addition to common family issues such as poverty, divorce, abuse and the changing family systems.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the course, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Define and apply the basic concepts of marriage/family including culture, status, roles, norms, institutions, social class, race, gender, sexual orientation and parenting.
2. Identify the various factors that affect the family and enable healthy or dysfunctional dynamics.
3. Distinguish different major sociological theoretical perspectives that explain behavior in the family and the various roles performed by members.
4. Assess both macro and micro social influences in understanding different aspects of the family.
5. Define and operationalize 50-100 terms related to marriage and the family.
6. Understand that race, gender and family systems are both institutions and social constructions.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe how different family systems operate and the role that communication, intimacy and problem-solving play in a healthy family.
2. Recognize Sociology as a science that approaches the study of the marriage and the family in a systematic manner.
3. Identify the effects class, race, sexuality and cultural have on family functioning, growth and difficulties.
4. List the different aspects of the family and member's roles and their impact on human behavior.
5. Describe the importance of social, economic and political forces in our culture and their impact on families.
6. Identify the dynamics of power and control in a marriage and family.
7. Draw a genogram of different types of family systems (nuclear, single-parent, same-sex, adoptive, etc.)
8. Recognize how history, culture and structural forces affect families in the past, present and future.
9. Write short essays on social topics that demonstrate critical thinking, organization and strategies for family development.

### **TEXTBOOK**

Cohen and Strong, Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society, Cengage Learning, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2017, ISBN 978-1-305-50310-6

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

#### **Three Exams (50, 100, 200 points)**

There will be two small exams (50 and 100 points) and a final exam (200 points). Each exam will cover 4-5 chapters in the book, discussions, information from presentations and lectures. Exams will be both multiple choice and short essay answers. Student can expect to see some previous quiz/exam questions on the final. Final covers the last 5 chapters.

### **Marriage/Family Biography (100 points)**

Students will write a family, marriage or divorce story in which they will use 10 terms from the first 3 chapters of the text to analyze their some family experiences. Students will be expected to define the terms and use sociological theory to analyze and evaluate the life experiences of growing up and the extended family. All writing will be word processed using a 12 point font. When using a term from the text, highlight the term, define it and please note the author's name, page number and date (Cohen, p. 77, 2017.)

### **Quizzes (20 points each)**

Each quiz will cover a certain amount of content from the text. The first quiz will be on Chapters 1, 2 and the next on 3-5 and so on. The purpose of the quizzes is to evaluate comprehension of the text and motivate students to read and take notes on the text.

### **Current Event Analysis /A Literature Review (40 points)**

Students will write a 2-3 page analysis of a current event related to marriage or family, using vocabulary, theory, self-reflection, research and possibly interviews with other students. The project will contain a copy of the current event and 2-3 pages of word processed text. The student may also do a response paper to approved sociological literature read by the student and approved by the instructor.

### **Class Attendance/Participation (40 points)**

There are many ways to participate in the class. The first is to show up. ("You miss all of the shots you don't take"- Michael Jordan). Students are encouraged to use the bathroom before class because going out of class is "non-participation." Verbal participation is rewarded but optional. There may be writing activities in the class. A "quick write" is a minimum of one half page, written response to a topic, lecture, discussion or other learning activity. It will involve at least two paragraphs and a theoretical, emotional or experiential response analysis or response.

### **Absence Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes. If there is illness or lock-down or other reasons for students to miss class, they can make up attendance by defining a minimum of 10 terms from the weekly reading material and a 2 page quick write about the reading material or current events. All writing should involve the use of theory, vocabulary or classroom learnings. . When using a term from the text, please note the author's name, date and page number (Cohen, p. 77, 2017).

### **Grading Policy**

|          |                  |                         |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>90-100%</b>   | <b>590-531 points</b>   |
| <b>B</b> | <b>80-90%</b>    | <b>530-469 "</b>        |
| <b>C</b> | <b>70-80%</b>    | <b>468-401 "</b>        |
| <b>D</b> | <b>60-70%</b>    | <b>400-340 "</b>        |
| <b>F</b> | <b>Below 60%</b> | <b>Below 340 points</b> |