

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 215

Credits: 3

Course Title: Sociology of the Family

Course Description: Studies topics, such as marriage and family, in social and cultural context. Addresses the single scene, dating and marriage styles, child-rearing, husband and wife interaction, single parent families, and alternative lifestyles. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in **Co-requisites** ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Understand and appreciate the complexities of marriage and family.
- b. Identify and explain key areas of discord and adjustment in relationships.
- c. Communicate more effectively in his/her interpersonal relationships, demonstrating listening, problem solving, and oral communication skills.
- d. Demonstrate an understanding of human sexuality—its physiological and emotional processes.
- e. Explain the purposes of marriage and the family, for society and for the individual.
- f. Identify the necessary attributes of a successful relationship/marriage and family.
- g. Explain how and why marriage and family are important social institutions.
- h. Identify the social forces operative upon marriage and the family, and how they affect the individuals in those institutions, as well as the institutions themselves.
- i. Identify the cultural forces that affect relationships, marriages, and families.
- j. Differentiate between the various forms of marriage and family existent in our own as well as other societies.
- k. Employ an objective approach to his/her own personal life, using reasoning skills and critical examination of information.
- l. Describe and explain the human reproductive processes.
- m. Explain how the economic system of a society affects relationships, marriages, and families.
- n. Understand and appreciate the familial role systems of various societies.
- o. Differentiate between stereotypes and scientific generalizations/conclusions, and distinguish between arguments that are strong and relevant and those that are weak and irrelevant to a particular question at issue.
- p. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Marriage and family in social and historical context
- b. Various family systems
- c. Preparation for marriage (dating, romantic love, cohabitation)
- d. Marital and family adjustments—social, sexual, financial, in-laws, expanding/contracting family, aging parents
- e. Stages in family life and what can be expected
- f. Future of the family and family policies
- g. Theoretical and practical ideas concerning communication and human needs.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Summer, 2014