

**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 EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: SOC 200 provides the student with an introduction to important sociological concepts and principles. A transferable course to four-year colleges and universities, SOC 200 meets a general education elective requirement for the Social/Behavioral Sciences and meets a requirement for the Approved Humanities and Social Sciences electives for the Liberal Arts AA and Social Sciences AS degrees. The course should be completed by any student intending to major in Sociology at a four-year institution.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

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; and
- 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.

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