

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

**Effective Semester / Session:** Spring 2011

**Type of Action:**

- ☐ New
- ☒ Modification
- ☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- ☐ Cancellation

**Course Alpha and Number:** SO 210

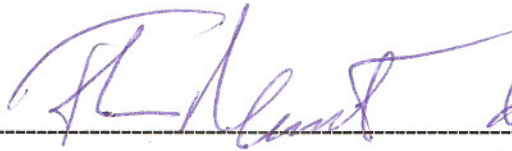
**Course Title:** Sociology of Love, Marriage, and Family Relationships

**Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:**

This course is designed to assist students with the ability to integrate scientific and critical thinking in making wise decisions regarding their present or future love relationships, marriage, and family relationships. Currently the college only has one course offering in sociology, and this new course expands options for sociological study. It also provides an opportunity for any former SO 101 students to apply sociological tools of analysis learned toward other social topics relevant with their daily life experiences.

Thomas D. Sharts

Proposer

 6/22/11

Date

Thomas D. Sharts

Department Chair

 6/22/11

Date

  
Dean of Academic Programs and Services

6.23.11  
Date

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## Course Guide

Course: SO 210 Sociology of Love, Marriage, and Family Relationships

### 1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

### 2. Purpose

This course is designed to assist students with the ability to integrate scientific and critical thinking in making wise decisions regarding their present or future love relationships, marriage, and family relationships. This course also provides an opportunity for students that have taken the SO 101 Introduction to Sociology course to apply sociological tools of analysis to other topics relevant to their daily life experiences.

### 3. Description

#### A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required: Williams, Brian K., Stacey C. Sawyer, Carl M. Wahlstrom. *Marriages, Families, and Intimate Relationships: A Practical Introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2009.

Readability level: Grade 11.2

#### B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

#### C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits.

#### D. Catalogue Course Description

This course introduces the sociological study of love relationships, marriages, and family relationships through various analytical sociological methods such as the primary areas of social reality, structural functionalism, and social conflict theory. Primary topics examined include the definition and meaning of love; dating and courtship behavior; behavior in marriage unions; positive and negative interpersonal communication; human sexual behavior in relationships; parenting; stake issues in love relationships and families; economic needs and divisions of labor in love relationships, marriages, and families; divorce; and remarriage. In addition, this course will examine various types of sociological experiences that affect love relationships,

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marriages, and families such as historical experiences, types of social structures, power implementation in relationships, deviant behavior, social status and prestige issues, health care issues, and access to technology. Prerequisite: none. English Placement Level: EN 093/094. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered in Fall and Spring)

### **E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course**

This course is an elective course for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts.

### **F. Course Activities and Design**

This course incorporates textbook readings, lectures, group discussions, audiovisual presentations, written assignments, guest speakers, and exams.

### **4. Course Prerequisite(s):**

#### **Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s):**

Prerequisites: none

English Placement Level: EN 093/094

Math Placement Level: None.

### **5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed**

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, the cost of the textbook, and the student activities fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include projector, TV/VCR, videotaped programs, textbook, chalkboard, chalk, photocopy paper, and photocopy machine, and personal computers for research.

### **6. Method of Evaluation**

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.



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### 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Defining sociological theoretical tools for analyzing any social topic of consideration
  - 1.1 The seven primary areas that define social reality
  - 1.2 Structure functionalism
  - 1.3 Conflict theory
- 2.0 Identifying types of social structures
  - 2.1 Micro social structures
  - 2.2 Macro social structures
- 3.0 Defining political reality and its impact on social structural relationships
  - 3.1 Identify types of social structural relational stakes issues
  - 3.2 Identify methods of power utilized in social structural relations
- 4.0 Identifying other key sociological terms utilized in understanding social structural behavior
  - 4.1 Social status
  - 4.2 Prestige
  - 4.3 Deviance
  - 4.4 Social Change
- 5.0 Defining Love and Love Relationships
  - 5.1 Definitions and meaning of love
  - 5.2 Types of love relationships
- 6.0 Dating and Courtship Behavior
  - 6.1 Cultural social expectations for males and females involved in dating and courtship behavior (Northern Marianas and US culture)
  - 6.2 Choosing a marriage partner
- 7.0 Behavior in Marriage Unions
  - 7.1 Romance
  - 7.2 Routine
  - 7.3 Sexual behavior
  - 7.4 Division of labor roles

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- 8.0 Positive and Negative Interpersonal Communication
  - 8.1 Posture
  - 8.2 Eye contact
  - 8.3 Truthful communication
  - 8.4 Avoidance
  - 8.5 Malicious talk
- 9.0 Human Sexual Behavior in Relationships
  - 9.1 Sexual behavior in dating relationships
  - 9.2 Sexual behavior in marriages
  - 9.3 Extramarital affairs
- 10.0 Parenting Experiences and Styles
  - 10.1 Single parenting
  - 10.2 Parenting in a marriage relationship
  - 10.3 Divorced-dual parenting
  - 10.4 Various parenting styles
- 11.0 Stake Issues in Love Relationships, Marriages, and Families
  - 11.1 Economic needs and security
  - 11.2 Personal security
  - 11.3 Parenting styles
- 12.0 Divisions of Labor in Love Relationships, Marriages, and Families
  - 12.1 Cohabitation divisions of labor
  - 12.2 Marriage divisions of labor
  - 12.3 Divisions of labor in families
- 13.0 Divorce
  - 13.1 Stake issues related to divorce
  - 13.2 Sociological consequences of divorce
- 14.0 Remarriage
  - 14.1 Stake issues related to remarriage
  - 14.2 Sociological consequences of divorce and remarriage
- 15.0 Sociological Experiences that Affect Love Relationships
  - 15.1 Historical experiences
  - 15.2 Cultural experiences
  - 15.3 Conflicts in relationships
  - 15.4 Relational and economic experiences

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- 15.5 Power implementation by partner
- 15.6 Deviant behaviors by partner
- 15.7 Social status and prestige distinctions
- 15.8 Access to health care and technology
- 16.0 Sociological Experiences that Affect Marriages
  - 16.1 Historical experiences
  - 16.2 Relational and economic experiences
  - 16.3 Cultural experiences
  - 16.4 Conflicts in marriage relationships
  - 16.5 Power implementation by spouse
  - 16.6 Deviant behaviors by husband or wife
  - 16.7 Social status and prestige distinctions
  - 16.8 Access to health care and technology
- 17.0 Sociological Experiences that Affect Families
  - 17.1 Historical experiences
  - 17.2 Relational and economic experiences
  - 17.3 Cultural experiences
  - 17.4 Conflicts that affect family relationships
  - 17.5 Power implementation by parents
  - 17.6 Deviant behaviors of children or parents
  - 17.7 Social status and prestige distinctions
  - 17.8 Access to health care and technology
- 18.0 Same-Sex Legal Unions in the United States
  - 18.1 Sociological explanations for same-sex unions

### 8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1. 0 Theoretical sociological tools for analyzing any social topic of consideration;
- 2.0 Types of social structures
- 3. 0 Definition for political and use of power in social structural relationships



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- 4.0 Sociological terms associated with understanding social structural relational behavior;
- 5.0 Definitions and meaning of love;
- 6.0 Dating and courtship behavior in reference to cultural expectations;
- 7.0 Types of behaviors in marriage unions;
- 8.0 Positive and negative interpersonal communication;
- 9.0 Types of human sexual behavior in relationships;
- 10.0 Various parenting experiences and styles;
- 11.0 Stake issues in love relationships, marriages, and families;
- 12.0 Divisions of labor in love relationships, marriages, and families;
- 13.0 The divorce experience;
- 14.0 Remarriage experiences;
- 15.0 Sociological experiences that affect love relationships;
- 16.0 Sociological experiences that affect marriages;
- 17.0 Sociological experiences that affect families, and,
- 18.0 Sociological explanations for same-sex unions

### 9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Define those theoretical sociological tools for analyzing any social topic of consideration;
- 2.0 Identify types of social structures;

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- 3.0 Define political reality and power their impact on social structural relationships;
- 4.0 Identify key sociological terms utilized in understanding social structural relational behavior;
- 5.0 Identify and explain definitions of love and types of love;
- 6.0 Describe dating and courtship behavior in various cultures;
- 7.0 Identify and explain types of behaviors that make marriages function;
- 8.0 Contrast positive and negative behavior in interpersonal relations;
- 9.0 Analyze various types of human sexual behavior in relationships;
- 10.0 Describe various parenting experiences and styles;
- 11.0 Identify stake issues that influence love relationships, marriages, and families such as economic, personal security, and parenting styles;
- 12.0 Explain various divisions of labor in love relationships, marriages, and families;
- 13.0 Evaluate the divorce experience, including stake issues and sociological consequences;
- 14.0 Evaluate the remarriage experience, including stake issues and sociological consequences;
- 15.0 Analyze sociological experiences that affect love relationships;
- 16.0 Analyze sociological experiences that affect marriages;
- 17.0 Analyze sociological experiences that affect family relationships;
- 18.0 Explain sociological origins for same-sex unions



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### **10. Assessment Measures**

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Written assignments;
- 2.0 Oral presentations; and
- 3.0 Exams.