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

Thomas D. Sharts  
Department Chair

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

6/22/11

6/24/11

6/23/11
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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**  
   
   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.
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
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
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;
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
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.