COURSE INFORMATION FORM

DISCIPLINE: Sociology
COURSE TITLE: Marriage and Family Living

CR. HR: 3  LECT HR: 3  LAB HR:  CLIN/INTERN HR:  CLOCK HR: 

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
This course will introduce students to the study of family living in the United States. Attention will be given to the research methods and theoretical framework for understanding family from a sociological perspective. Consideration will also be given to the diversity of family in contemporary society.

PREREQUISITES:
None

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE:
1. Explain and compare definitions of family and marriage
2. Explain and compare the social research methods used to study family.
3. Explain and compare the sociological theoretical framework for understanding family.
4. Compare and contrast the histories of families of diverse backgrounds in the United States.
5. Evaluate contemporary family issues using the sociological theoretical framework.
6. Demonstrate an informed appreciation for diversity within and among families in the United States.
7. Critically evaluate the changes facing families in the future.
CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES
Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)

- Exams (1-7)
- Written assignments (1,5,6,7)
- Quizzes (1-7)
- Classroom presentations (1-7)
- In class discussions (1-7)

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES ADDRESSED

General Education Outcomes
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes and assessment measures.

Occupational Program Outcomes
Specify which occupational program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.
Individual instructors may order this outline as fits the needs of their individual courses. In addition, they may place more emphasis on some areas than on others. What is assured is that this particular list is covered in the course. Other topics may be added to a course as the instructor sees fit, and as time and interest allow. An asterisk can be used to mark an item as optional.

I. Basic Concepts related to family
   A. Definitions of family
   B. Functions of family
   C. Attributes related to marriage
   D. Changing Definitions of family
   E. Families and marriages from a cross-cultural perspective

II. Understanding the family from a sociological perspective
   A. Theoretical framework
   B. Research methods
   C. Ethics

III. The Historical Perspectives of families in the United States

IV. Diversity
   A. The impact of race and ethnicity on families in the United States
   B. The impact of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender on families in the United States

V. The Individual in a relationship
   A. Socialization
   B. Theories of love
   C. Sexuality

VI. Commitments
   A. Dating and mate selection
   B. Options other than marriage
   C. Marriage

VII. Children
   A. Choices around childbearing
   B. Parenting

VIII. Conflicts
   A. Balancing work and family
   B. Family violence
   C. Divorce and other dissolutions

IX. Changes in family
   A. Remarriage and stepfamilies
   B. Aging within the family

X. Families in the future

August 2008