

Virginia Western Community College

SOC 215

Sociology of the Family

Prerequisites

None

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.

Objective:

- To connect students' personal lives to the class while showing how sociologists understand and explain families.
- To explore both the public and private scope of the family
- To examines the historical and cross-cultural diversity of families.
- To addresses current political debates in "Families and Public Policy."
- To explain how family sociologists go about their research
- To examine various aspects of the family, including sexuality; marriage, divorce, and remarriage; parenting; childcare; health; the elderly and their families.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Knox, David. *M&F (Marriage & Family)*. Ma.: Boston: Cengage Learning, 3rd ed., 2016. ISBN: 978-1-305-70428-2

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Understand how society and the environment affect their own experiences in their families.
- Explain the importance of the public and private aspects of the family.
- Understand the methodologies and theoretical perspectives used by sociologists to study the family.
- Understand the history of the family.
- Understand the changing dynamics of the family in modern times.
- Understand the public policy implications of family dynamics.

Topical Description

1	Defining Families
2	Declining and Enduring Families
3	Measuring Families
4	Gendered Families
5	Diverse Families/Similar Families
6	Unequal Families
7	Love, Sexuality, and Relationship Formation
8	Marriage and Cohabitation
9	Work and Family
10	Entering Parenthood
11	Childhood and Adolescence
12	Adulthood and Later Life
13	Intimate Violence
14	Divorce and Remarriage
15	Change, Stability, and Future Families

Notes to Instructors

None