

Course Description

SYG2430 | Marriage and the Family | 3.00 credits

The course covers the family as a social institution its origin and development, its forms and functions, its interrelation with other social institutions, and its role in contemporary civilization. Areas of study include factors contributing to or acting against successful, stable marriage.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the importance of the institution of the family by:

1. Recognizing the main types of family structures in the U.S. and worldwide
2. Analyzing the change in the functions performed by the family, particularly in the United States
3. Examining the major trends experienced by the American family in recent decades
4. Identifying the main sociological, theoretical frameworks for viewing Marriage and the family: conflict theory, Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Family Systems Framework, and Feminist Framework

Competency 2: The student will identify key concepts of sex and gender and their interaction with family structure by:

1. Distinguishing between the physiological and anatomical differences in males and females as well the interactions of these differences with the social world
2. Exploring gender and its relationship to social structures through socialization, gender roles, gender identity, and gender ideology
3. Examining sexuality in relationships, including sexual values, their characteristics, and sources
4. Understanding the most important sexually transmitted diseases, as well as their prevention and possible cure

Competency 3: The student will show awareness of the process of courtship and mate selection by:

1. Identifying the main courtship patterns present in the world today
2. Describing the evolution, characteristics, and functions of courtship in the U.S
3. Recognizing the main structural factors determining marital compatibility in our culture
4. Examining the alternatives to traditional marriage and family arrangements in contemporary society

Competency 4: The student will examine the state of marriage, remarriage, cohabitation, and divorce in contemporary us society by:

1. Recognizing changing trends in family life in US Society, including the decline of traditional marriage, the rise of cohabitation, same-sex marriage, ploy-amorous family arrangements, and prolonged single-hood
2. Identifying structural issues associated with parenting and planning for children
3. Exploring the roles of sex, money, and communication in marital conflict
4. Examining the divorce process's social, legal, and cultural features and consequences

Competency 5: The student will know the impact of the economy and work on marriages and families by:

1. Exploring the relationship between employment and family life
2. Identifying the effects of poverty and debt on working-class families and children
3. Examining the socio-economic challenges faced by single parents in US society
4. Understanding social programs' role, extent, and effects for needy families

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures including global and historical perspectives