

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE

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Status: Permanent  
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December 4, 1991  
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A. Identification:

1. Subject Area: Sociology (SOC)
2. Course Number: 140
3. Course Title: Marriage and the Family in the United States
4. Credit Hours: 3
5. Catalog Description: Institutions and systems of kinship, marriage, family, childrearing, and status placement are studied. General Education: Social and Behavioral Sciences. Special Requirements: Ethnic/Race/ Gender Awareness. Three lecture.

B. Course Goals:

The objective of this course is to provide students with overview of concerns, attitudes, values, and needs related to family-life choices by applying critical thinking and writing skills. The student will learn about the many facets of marriage, family life, child-rearing, family finance, parenting structures, dual careers, marriage, date violence, date rape, spouse and child abuse, early marital adjustment, and managing marital conflict within the context of the attributes of healthy couples.

C. Course Outcomes: Students will:

1. describe courtship, dating, and gender roles;
2. differentiate between liking, infatuation, and love;
3. recognize the communication styles of men, women, and people in relationships;
4. describe changing values, structures, and norms toward cohabitating families in the U.S.;
5. identify the various types and main functions of the American family;
6. identify the main factors leading to divorce and relationships post-divorce in contemporary U.S.;
7. describe various styles of parenting in the U.S.;
8. recognize the impact of family violence on children and marriages in the U.S.;
9. and examine the historical significance on contemporary society as it relates to marriage and family structures, language, and societal expectations.

D. Course Outcomes Assessment will include: a variety of assessment techniques including critical writing assignments.

E. Course Content will include:

1. exploration of how societies in the U.S. have constructed marriage and family as an institution:
  - a. cotemporary and historical structures;
  - b. reasons for marriage and family;
  - c. identify how the three main perspectives identify and describe marriage and family:
    - i. functionalist, symbolic interactionism, and conflict;
2. gender identity and gender roles;
3. adjustment and conflict management:
  - a. childrearing;
  - b. divorce;
  - c. blended Families;
  - d. kinship;
  - e. power structures;
4. American families: past and present:
  - a. families in early America;
  - b. defining marriage and family;
  - c. various types of marriage, relationships, and co-habitation;
  - d. discuss various social control through patriarchal and matriarchal cultures;
  - e. family types: family functions
5. forces of change:
  - a. demographics;
  - b. the modern women's movement;
  - c. and shifting values.