SOC 102

Marriage and the Family

Course Description
This course introduces the institutions of marriage and the family from a sociological perspective. Significant forms and structures of family groups are studied in relation to current trends and social changes.

Prerequisite or Co requisite: SOC 101.

3.0 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus
Students will learn how social, cultural and political factors affect their own decision making in relationships. Students will understand the relevance of social science to their lives, and will leave the class with a solid theoretical and research-based understanding of marriages and families. Students will learn more about their own lives and those of others, how to make better decisions about their relationships, and how social and political forces will affect their decision-making.

Text and References

SOC 102 CORE CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

All courses approved for the general education core curriculum help students develop communication skills and/or critical thinking.

This course develops communication skills through weekly discussion board assignments, and class discussions. In addition, a research paper in APA format is required.

This course develops critical thinking skills for both speakers and listeners since speakers are expected to employ evidence they understand the thesis of the lectures, and discussion board topics. Students will also demonstrate their critical thinking skills in a research paper on a specific marriage and family topic.
Course Goals
The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Defining Family
2. The Functions of Families: Micro- and Macro-Level Perspectives on Families Always Changing *
3. The Importance of Social Science Theory and Research
4. The Link between Private Experiences and Social Structure Sex, Gender and Patriarchy *
5. Race and Ethnicity/Social Class
6. The Poverty Intersections of sex, gender, race, ethnicity and class *
7. Building Relationships through Singlehood and Friendships
8. Dating, Courtship, and Mate Selection
9. Heterosexual Cohabitation
10. Gay and Lesbian Intimate Relationships
11. What is Love?
12. Images of Love in History *
13. Theoretical Perspectives on Love
14. Overview of Historical and Cultural Influences on Sexuality
15. Our Sexual Selves: Biology and Culture Intertwined
16. Sexual Scripts
17. The Importance of Communication *
18. Types of Communication
19. Conflict, Communication and Problem Solving
20. Marriage: Here, There and Everywhere
21. Marriage in U.S. History
22. Marital Satisfaction and Success *
23. Population and Fertility Trends Worldwide
24. The Costs and Rewards of Raising Children
25. Paths to Parenthood *
26. Parenting Styles *
27. How do children influence their parents?
28. The Changing Dynamics of the Workplace
29. Life in a Recession
30. Family Work at Home
31. The Nature of Stress and Crisis
32. Violence and Abuse *
33. Divorce in the United States
34. What are the Effects of Divorce on Children? *
35. Stepfamilies
36. Aging in Historical Perspective
37. Family Transitions *
38. What Do Families Need to Flourish?
39. Building Resilience: General Policies and Programs to Support Families *
40. Specific Policies and Programs for Children
41. Specific Policies and Programs for Elderly

Student Contributions
Students are expected to be fully prepared for class by completing all reading assignments in full before the class session. Attendance is a critical factor to success in this class as lecture will enhance students understanding of reading assignments.

Course Evaluation
Your final grade for the course will be determined by the average of all exam/test/quiz scores and completion of all required assignments. See CLASS INFORMATION Section for specific details about scoring procedures and due dates.

TCL's grading scale is:
90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
Below 60 = F

Course Schedule
The class meets for 3 lecture/presentation hours per week. The content will be introduced in the same order as they are listed in the course goal section. The content goals will be finished in a varied manner.

ADA STATEMENT
The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student’s responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the TCL Student Handbook, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE
The College’s statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in and communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the
class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.

- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

- In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

- When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdrawal the student with a grade of “W”, “WP”, or “WF” depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student’s progress up to the last date of attendance or

- Under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

- Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

  - A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

  - A copy of TCL’s STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL) is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER
In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTCO TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE ALERT
Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

GRADING METHODOLOGY
The final grade must be 70 or more (a grade “C” or better) in order to pass the course and progress to the next course. Students absent from an examination or presentation will receive a “0” grade for the examination unless other arrangements are made with the individual instructor prior to the examination or presentation day or on the examination or presentation day before the test/presentation is scheduled to be given.

The student is responsible for notifying the instructor for the reason of the absence. It is also the responsibility of the student to contact the appropriate instructor to arrange to make up the examination. Arrangements may be completed by telephone.
If the instructor is not available, a message should be left on the instructor’s voice mail AND with another member of the faculty or administrative assistant. The make-up exam will be scheduled and the instructor will decide the method of examination. Messages sent by other students are unacceptable.

Revised: 9/25/2012

Reviewed/Approved by Dean of Arts & Sciences 9/26/2012