

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 32643 Marriage, Family, and Kinship

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 10103 Introduction to Sociology

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the diversity of marital, family, and kinship arrangements. Tracks how these structures flex in frequency and arrangement with economic trends. Examines how they have changed over time and how they vary cross-culturally.

B. Additional Information

This course is an elective for the Sociology and Diversity Studies minors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss cross cultural variation in how marriage, family and kinship are arranged.
2. Apply sociological theories to explain variations in marriage, family, and kinship structures.
3. Analyze current trends in marriage, family, and kinship patterns.
4. Evaluate cultural responses to variation in marriage, family, and kinship structures.
5. Create presentations that demonstrate an inclusive understanding of variations in marriage, family, and kinship structures.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Cross cultural variation in marriage patterns.
- B. Cross cultural variation in family patterns
- C. Cross cultural variation in how kinship is reckoned
- D. Contemporary trends in marriage, family, and kinship structures