COURSE TITLE: Marriage and the Family

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 302

PREREQUISITE: PSY 101 OR SOC 101

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce the subject of marriage and family from a sociological perspective. There will be examination and comparison of patterns of behavior surrounding these institutions historically, cross-culturally, and especially in contemporary U.S. society. Students will be encouraged to analyze the causes and probable consequences of current trends and social problems surrounding the family. Topics to be explored are family violence, mate selection, romantic love, gender roles, sex, alternate family life styles (communes, single parents, open marriage), divorce, and the changing composition of the family.

II. RATIONALE:

Society has established value for the family as a social unit through its laws, legislation, and policies. In addition, research studies have shown that thriving family units contribute to the health and well-being of the population at large. Understanding factors that contribute to family functioning is essential to learning how to help families be successful.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Understand the roles of marriage and family in different cultures.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Define terms related to marriage and family.
A-2 Define roles in marriage and family.
A-3 Compare and contrast member roles and gender roles in different cultures.
A-4 Explain the role of family in different cultures.
A-5 Explore the dynamics of children in families.

GOAL B:
Be familiar with an historic perspective of marriage and family as an institution within different cultures.
Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Discuss how archaeological and anthropological evidence broaden our understanding of family and marriage.
B-2 Compare and contrast roles and status of individuals within family in different time periods over the last several centuries.

GOAL C:
Understand issues that have impact on marriage and family in contemporary culture.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1 Discuss the role of public policy on the institution of marriage and family.
C-2 Criticize the impact of corporate capitalism on the family.
C-3 Argue the role of deliberate social change on marriage and family.
C-4 Explore human services models of working with children and families.

GOAL D:
Be familiar with major theorists.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

D-1 Identify the key concepts including terms and definitions for each theory.
D-2 Identify key individuals associated with each theory.
D-3 Identify strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical position.

GOAL E:
Understand the interplay of culture on the institution and the institution on the culture.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

E-1 Identify various aspects of culture that could impact the institution of marriage and family (e.g. school, economics, and technology).
E-2 Describe how an aspect of culture impacts the institution of marriage and family.
E-3 Explain how the institution itself can impact culture (e.g. singlehood, nonparent).

GOAL F:
Understand the process of attraction and mate selection.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

F-1 Describe various explanations describing mate selection including
sociobiology, popular culture, and traditional cultural values.

F-2 Explain how mate selection has changed over time within a culture.

**GOAL G:**
Use appropriate written and oral communication skills

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

G-1 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and vocabulary.
G-2 Use appropriate APA format for scholarly writings.
G-3 Speak with confidence, clarity, and conciseness.
G-4 Research, prepare, and deliver professional presentations