

**CAPITAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS FOR SOCIOLOGY 236**

**SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: SOC 236**

**COURSE TITLE: Marriage and the Family                      CREDITS: 3**

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Development of the family as an institution with emphasis on patterns and problems of family relationships. Cultural variations in the American family and urban family problems are examined.

**LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3**

**PREREQUISITE: SOC 201**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The major objectives of this course are to enable students to:

1. Provide the opportunity to analyze a variety of family systems from historical and contemporary perspectives.
2. Explore the significance of sociocultural, biological and psychological implications in family development and functioning.
3. Analyze and discuss the social, political, and economic ramifications of diverse family systems and alternative life styles.
4. Provide a knowledge base conducive to more effective planning and working with families and individuals of differing socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

## COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE:

### Unit I - The Family

1. Conceptualization of the family
  - a. Definition
  - b. Family function and structure
  - c. Family as a social institution
  - d. Ideal vs. Real (family organization)

### Unit II - Encounters & Relationship Formation

1.
  - a. Social Relationships
  - b. Interpersonal intimacy
  - c. Attitudes - their influence
  - d. Problems of relationship formation
  - e. Sex roles - their influence
  - f. Values (sexual)
  - g. Love/romance/to marry or not to marry

### Unit III - Marriage & Family Organization

1. Contemporary Family Organization
  - a. Mate selection/dating/courtship
  - b. Marriage laws, contracts/dissolution/formation
  - c. Minority families
  - d. Dual career families
  - e. Single parent/reconstituted families

### Unit IV - Parenthood

1. Becoming a parent
  - a. Motivation
  - b. To have or not to have children
  - c. Adoptive & foster parents
2. Early Parenting
  - a. Child rearing goals
  - b. Role models
  - c. Responsive environments

**COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE:**

**Unit IV - Parenthood (Continued)**

3. Later Parenting
  - a. Problems - abuse - neglect
  - b. Adolescents/parental conflicts
  - c. Therapeutic intervention

**Unit V - Disruptions, Conflicts, and Dissolutions**

1. Marital problems
  - a. Violence/anger
  - b. Conflicts/sexual roles
  - c. Alcoholism/unemployment
  - d. Extramarital affairs
  - e. Resolving conflict
2. Dissolution
  - a. Separation
  - b. Divorce - cause/effect/impact

**Unit VI - Continuing the Family Life Cycle**

1. Changes
  - a. Marital laws
  - b. Governmental interventions
  - c. Abolition of family structure

**READINGS:**

Journal articles and library readings as assigned.

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Optional assignments are available to persons who wish to enhance their grades.

**APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING:**

Group presentations on contemporary issues confronting the modern American family.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Group Presentation  
Mid-term Examination  
Class attendance and participation  
Final Examination

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture, discussion and group presentations.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:**

Coleman, James C., Intimate Relationships, Marriage, and Family  
Rosenfeld, Jeffrey, P., Relationships: The Marriage and Family Reader  
Nass, Gilbert, Marriage and The Family (Required)