

**SOC 213**  
**SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course covers the institution of the family and other intimate relationships. Emphasis is on mate selection, gender roles, sexuality, communication, power and conflict, parenthood, diverse lifestyles, divorce and remarriage, and economic issues. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze the family as a social institution and the social forces which influence its development and change. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The student will be able to:

- a. Discuss functions of the family.
- b. Explain the theoretical frameworks for studying families.
- c. Trace the historical development of the family from colonial to “modern” times.
- d. Discuss factors in mate selection.
- e. Compare and contrast racial-ethnic families.
- f. Discuss theories of family violence.
- g. Discuss factors of separation and divorce.
- h. Evaluate life of the elderly.

**OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Marriages and the family in perspective
  - A. The changing family
  - B. Studying marriage and the family
  - C. The family in historical perspective
- II. The individual and the developing relationship
  - A. Gender roles: more choices, more constraints
  - B. Love is a many-splendored thing-or is it?
  - C. Understanding human sexuality
  - D. Sexual expression throughout the life course

### III. Individual and marital commitments

- A. Becoming a couple: dating, rating, and mating
- B. To marry or tarry? Singlehood and other options
- C. Marriage and marital communication

### IV. Parents and children

- A. To be or not to be a parent: more choices, more constraints
- B. Raising children: contemporary prospects and pitfalls
- C. Racial-ethnic families: strengths, stresses, and stereotypes

### V. Conflicts and crises

- A. Families and work: facing the economic squeeze
- B. Family violence and other crisis-related issues
- C. Separation and divorce

### VI. Changes and transitions

- A. Remarriage and stepfamilies: life after divorce
- B. Aging and family life: grandparents, the widowed, and caregivers
- C. The family in the twenty-first century

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:**

To be selected by instructor.

## **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.