

## **NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY SOC 215 – SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY (3 CR.)**

### **Course Description**

Introduces tools to study family life through the sociological lens. Explores a variety of topics including various familial forms, divorce, and domestic violence. Lecture 3 hour per week.

### **General Course Purpose**

To provide students with an analysis of family systems as viewed by sociologists.

### **Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Summarize major historical phases in American family life.
- b) Explain how marriage and families change over time and vary by culture, including how they are influenced by broader social, political, and economic forces.
- c) Identify and describe socially-patterned practices of the life course, including childhood, dating, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, parenting, and caregiving.
- d) Evaluate social research on marriage and the family.
- e) Recognize the causes of social inequities in family experiences.
- f) Evaluate the strengths and challenges of single parent, same-sex, remarriage, and blended families.
- g) Compare and evaluate alternative patterns of marriage and family life.
- h) Describe how change within social institutions, structures, and societies produces change in intimate relationships relating to gender, love and intimacy, sex and sexualities, and/or communication, power, and conflict.

### **Major Topics to be Included**

- a) Historical overview of family systems
- b) Functions of family
- c) Sexuality
- d) Gender and Gender Roles
- e) Parenting
- f) Intimacy
- g) Communication
- h) Power and Conflict
- i) Alternative Family Forms
- j) Violence and Sexual Abuse
- k) Separation, Divorce and Remarriage
- l) Interracial/Ethnic Family and Marriage Patterns
- m) Cohabitation

### **Extra Topics (Optional)**

- Cross-cultural examination of Family Systems
- Aging
- Multigenerational Families
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Contraception