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

Course Description
Studies topics such as marriage and family in social and cultural context. Addresses the single scene, dating and marriage styles, child-rearing, husband and wife interactions, single parent families, and alternative lifestyles. 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