

Course Outline for: SOC 2114 Families in Crisis**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Goal #7 Human Diversity

This course explores theoretical perspectives in the sociology of families - including policy and diversity. Students apply theoretical perspectives on family violence, spouse and child abuse and neglect, elder care and abuse, and substance abuse. The course also covers the consequences for family functioning and the criminal justice system response.

B. Date last revised: January 2023**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. The Sociological Imagination/Perspective and Family Institutions
2. Historical Trends, Diversity and Contemporary Families
3. Theories of Family Change and Adaptation
4. Work, Economic changes and Family structure
5. Divorce and Family life
6. Family Violence and Abuse
7. Child Maltreatment: Physical, Emotional and Sexual Abuse and Neglect
8. Elder Care and Abuse
9. Professional Responses to Intimate Violence and Abuse
10. International Comparisons of Family Policies

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the meaning of the "social construction" of families. (Goal 2a, 2b, 5c, 7a)
2. Describe the diversity of families in the U.S. (Goal 2a, 5b, 7b, 7d)
3. Analyze the meanings of such issues as divorce, single parenthood, and blended families. (Goal 2b, 5d, 7d)
4. Investigate the social and legal dimensions of intimate family violence, the role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. (Goal 2c, 2d, 5d)
5. Identify ways to help families. (Goal 2b, 2c, 5d, 7e)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to: exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, essays, group work and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information:

This course meets the following 2021 Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board Learning Objectives:

- 1.6.6. Discuss how family dynamics and communication methods, both verbal and non-verbal, vary between cultures and how recognition of these variances can benefit officers and communities.
- 1.8.7. Discuss Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and acute stress disorders and their symptoms.
- 2.16.1. Explain what legally constitutes domestic abuse and assault.
- 2.16.2. Discuss the dynamics of domestic violence including the phases of abusive behavior, the progression of violence, the use of power to attain control of a relationship, the effects of abuse, and the societal forces that may perpetuate an atmosphere conducive to abuse.