

**Course Outline for:** SOC 1102 Love, Sex, and Family**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 #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Families are important components of our social worlds and learning about them helps in understanding ourselves and others. Using a sociological perspective, students consider the realities, challenges and opportunities that contemporary families face and explore the ways by which our intimate connections shape and are shaped by society. Students examine how race, class, and gender influence family life, as well as how power and identity operate within families and society. By analyzing issues like love, sexuality, and caregiving, students gain insight into the diverse, complex, and ever-changing nature of family and intimate connections.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** March 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Sociological perspectives and theories regarding intimate relationships and family life over time
2. Gender and gender socialization
3. Sexuality, sexual identity, social/cultural influences regarding contraception and entering parenthood
4. Cohabitation, marriage, mate selection
5. Work and families, division of labor, gender roles, work-life balance
6. Social class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and families/intimate relationships
7. Family diversity, group identities, power relations, minoritized groups in American society and their families
8. Family inequality – causes (i.e., racism, classism, etc.) and consequences (i.e., poverty, union dissolution, etc.)
9. Families over the life course – caregiving for seniors, people with disabilities, and children (parenting)
10. Conflict and domestic violence
11. Union dissolution, reconstituted families, repartnering

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Analyze the historical and contemporary links between intimate relationships and societal context from a sociological science perspective. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5a, 5b, 5c)
2. Assess the ways that contemporary families shape, and are shaped by, unequal access to resources and power at the individual and institutional level. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 7Ab)
3. Analyze the experiences and contributions of diverse groups with regard to the changing nature of marriage and family over time especially for those groups who face discrimination or exclusion. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5b, 7Ad)
4. Evaluate the evolving social and cultural issues that affect families (e.g., caregiving, gender roles, union dissolution) over time from a sociological science perspective. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5a, 5b)
5. Assess how the development and changing meanings of group identities in the U.S. influence family choices, structures, and outcomes. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 7Aa)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Journals
4. Research papers
5. Oral presentations
6. Written assignments
7. Group work

**F. Special Information:**

None