

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

CHILD DEVELOPMENT 115 – CHANGING AMERICAN FAMILY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Survey of the contemporary American family with an emphasis on changes in form, functions and expectations. The history of the family, both public and private, will be considered and examined in relation to the effects of class, ethnicity and social policy. The effects on the family of common life events experienced by individuals and family members will be covered including sexuality, mate selection, marriage, childbearing, the working family, divorce, domestic violence, and aging. The future of the family including implications for the individual and society will be discussed.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Overview of the family as an American institution including the historical perspective
- 2) Today's family in relation to ethnicity, class and social policy, and the changes they have brought about in the family function, form and structure
- 3) Paths to family formation in relation to sexuality, mate selection and/or marriage
- 4) Effects of power and conflict on families in the contexts of the workplace, domestic violence, divorce and remarriage
- 5) Generational effects on the family from the advent of children to the aging of parents
- 6) Social change and the future of families

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Examine, compare and contrast the family in historical perspective to today's families, both public and private.
- 2) Analyze the effects of ethnicity, class and social policy on the family.
- 3) Recognize and describe how changing demographics and role expectations may affect family forms.
- 4) Describe and discuss different paths to family formation including sexuality, love and marriage.
- 5) Explain the effects of power and conflict on families in relation to work, domestic violence, divorce and remarriage.
- 6) Formulate a personal conceptual framework of growth and development of families throughout the family lifecycle.
- 7) Review and analyze current research in the area of family life.
- 8) Predict and analyze future trends for the family.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Midterms and final exam (objective and essay) that measure students' ability to compare, contrast, and analyze the historical and current trends and issues for the American family.
- 2) Directed group discussions that evaluate students' ability to analyze significant effects on the family and describe changing demographics and family forms.

- 3) Research papers, observation(s) and written reports on selected topics that measure students' ability to formulate a personal conceptual framework of family, review current research on the family, and analyze future family trends.

Special Materials Required of Student

Access to Internet

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Presentation of lecture materials
- 2) Group discussions and activities
- 3) Internet assignments
- 4) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reflective writing assignments
- 2) Assigned readings

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Cherlin, A. (2016). *Public and Private Families: An Introduction* (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill Publishing.
- 2) Supplemental: Choose one of these books for Assignment 1 BOOK REVIEW
 - a. *Etched in Sand: A True Story of Five Siblings Who Survived an Unspeakable Childhood on Long Island* by Regina Calcaterra (2013).
 - b. *The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir* by Ruth Wariner (2016).
 - c. *After the Last Border*: by Jessica Goudeau (2020).
 - d. *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family* by Robert Kolker (2020).
 - e. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride (2006).
 - f. *Other People's Children*: by Joanna Trollope (1999).
 - g. *The Wrong End of The Table: A Mostly Comic Memoir of a Muslim Arab American Woman Just Trying to Fit In* by Ayser Salman (2019).
 - h. *Little America: Incredible True Stories of Immigrants in America* by Kumail Nanjiani (2020).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Discuss and analyze the issues and life events that have a major impact on contemporary American families.
- 2) Describe current research and predict future trends in the area of family life.