

**NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title: Sociology of the Family    Course #: SOC\* C104**

**Course Description:** This course examines the family as a social institution: its structures, functions, challenges, and changing cultural patterns within a historical and cross-cultural perspective. 3 semester hours

**Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:** Eligibility for ENG\*101

**Goals:**

- To introduce students to a basic sociological understanding of the family as a major social institution
- To examine the diversity of kinship, household composition, marital and lifestyle arrangements, and family organization in modern American society
- To introduce students to the wide variations of contemporary families including variations of class, race, gender, and sexual orientation
- To develop a basic understanding of sociological theories and academic research on families
- To explain the impact of social inequality on family formation and the family unit

**Outcomes:**

After you successfully complete this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the contemporary social forces that influence family definitions, composition and current changes in family structure
- Describe trends in family formation and family dissolution within the context of social inequality, social changes and the changing definition of the family
- Compare and contrast the family structure historically and in present day society
- Identify current research methods utilized to scientifically study the family
- Analyze the development of the family across the life course
- Explain the impacts of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality on family formation
- Identify and evaluate issues and theories of family conflict, divorce, remarriage and blended families
- Write a college-level essay summarizing a sociology article on the family from a peer-reviewed sociology journal