1. This course focuses on the sociological and theoretical analysis of the structures and functions of the family, the varied cultural patterns of the American family, and the relationships that exist among the individuals within the family, as well as the relationships that exist between the family and other institutions in society.

2. Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and empirical and quantitative skills.
   - Critical thinking skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
   - Communication skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
   - Social responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
   - Empirical and quantitative skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

3. This course satisfies three semester hours of the Social/Behavioral Sciences for the Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees. Please check your degree plan to determine the status of this course in your program of study.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of the family and marriage as social institutions through theoretical perspectives.
2. Examine the diversity and complexity of contemporary families.
3. Explore changing cultural attitudes about marriage and alternatives to marriage.
4. Critically evaluate such issues as sexuality, partner choice, resolving marital issues, having and raising children, and combining work with family.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between theories and research methods used in the scientific study of marriage and family.
6. Describe some of the historical changes and current trends regarding the structural nature of the American family including the role of gender in relationships.
7. Identify causes and consequences of relevant problems within contemporary families

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional Materials for this course may be found at: www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.
B. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

C. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

D. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content, and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon: 1. Examinations
   2. Written work
   3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows:
   90 – 100 = A
   80-89 = B
   70 – 79 = C
   60 – 69 = D
   59 and below = F

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. Please refer to the current CTC catalog for specific withdrawal requirements and processes.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.
C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Review the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

(Material from the following chapters will be covered during the semester. The specific material within each chapter and the ordering of the chapters will be at the instructor’s discretion.)

1. Defining Family
3. The Freedom and Pressures of Choosing
4. A Family of Individuals
5. Marriage and Families: Four Themes
6. Science: Transcending Personal Experience
7. Theoretical Perspectives on the Family
8. The Relationship Between Theory and Research
9. The Ethics of Scientific Research
10. Gendered Identities
11. How Did Gender Roles Emerge?
12. Gender Structures
13. Gender and Socialization
14. Gender and Social Change
15. Sexual Development and Identity
16. Theoretical Perspectives on Human Sexuality
17. Changing Cultural Scripts
18. Sexual Values Outside Committed Relationships
19. Sexual Values for Committed Relationships
20. The Politics of Sex
21. Sexual Responsibility
22. Love and Commitment
23. Mate Selection: The Process of Selecting a Committed Partner
24. The Marriage Market
25. Assortative Mating: A Filtering-Out Process
26. Heterogamy in Relationships
27. Meandering Toward Marriage: Developing the Relationship and Moving Toward Commitment
28. Dating Violence: A Serious Sign of Trouble
29. The Possibility of Breaking Up
30. Nurturing Loving and Committed Relationships
31. Reasons for More Unmarrieds
32. Singles—Their Various Living Arrangements
33. Cohabitation and Family Life
34. Same-Sex Couples and Family Life
35. Maintaining Supportive Social Networks and Life Satisfaction
36. Marital Status: The Changing Picture
37. The Time-Honored Marriage Premise: Permanence and Sexual Exclusivity
38. From "Yoke Mates" to "Soul Mates"—A Changing Marriage Premise
39. Deinstitutionalized Marriage
40. Individual Marriage and the Postmodern Family—Decline or Inevitable Change?
41. Valuing Marriage—The Policy Debate
42. Happiness and Life Satisfaction: How Does Marriage Matter?
43. Marital Satisfaction and Choices Throughout Life
44. Fertility Trends in the United States
45. Things to Consider When Deciding About Parenthood
46. Having Children: Options and Circumstances
47. Preventing Pregnancy
48. Involuntary Infertility and Reproductive Technology
49. Adoption
50. Parenting in Twenty-First Century America
51. Gender and Parenting
52. Experts Advise Authoritative Parenting
53. Social Class and Parenting
54. Racial/Ethnic Diversity and Parenting
55. The Interface of Work and Family Life
56. Men’s Work and Family Roles
57. Women’s Work and Family Roles
58. Two-Earner Unions and Work/Family Options
59. Unpaid Family Work
60. Juggling Employment and Family Work
61. Social Policy, Work, and Family
62. Characteristics of Cohesive Families
63. Communication and Couple Satisfaction
64. John Gottman’s Research on Couple Communication and Conflict Management
65. Gender Differences in Couple Communication
66. Working Through Conflicts in Positive Ways—10 Guidelines
67. What Is Power?
68. Classical Perspectives on Marital Power
69. Current Research on Couple Power
70. Power Politics versus Freely Cooperative Relationships
71. Family Violence
72. Stopping Family Violence
73. Defining Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience
74. Theoretical Perspectives on Family Stress and Crises
75. The Course of a Family Crisis
76. Family Stress, Crisis, Adjustment, and Adaptation: A Theoretical Model
77. Meeting Crises Creatively
78. Today's Divorce Rate
79. Why Did the Divorce Rate Rise Throughout the Twentieth Century?
80. Why the Divorce Rate Stabilized Over the Past Three Decades
81. Getting the Divorce
82. The Economic Consequences of Divorce
83. The Social and Emotional Consequences of Divorce
84. Child Custody Issues
85. Defining and Measuring Stepfamilies
86. Choosing Partners the Next Time
87. Happiness, Satisfaction, and Stability in Remarriage
88. Day-to-Day Living in Stepfamilies