

SOC-2210: DATING AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SOC-2210 : Dating and Intimate Relationships

Board of Trustees:

March 2021

Academic Term:

Fall 2021

Subject Code

SOC - Sociology

Course Number:

2210

Title:

Dating and Intimate Relationships

Catalog Description:

Intimate relationships studied on life course continuum from early to late adulthood, taking into consideration profound effects exerted by ethnicity, race, gender, human sexuality, socioeconomic status, age and place of residency. Analysis of characteristics and trends related to various types of intimate relationships including friendship, dating, cohabitation, and marriage. Critical issues considered are relationship violence, gender identity, relationship dissolution, and/or resolution. Students use the concept of sociological imagination, public issues, and personal troubles to link events in society to the state of intimate relationships in America today with emphasis on the role of mass media and social media.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

SOC-1010 Introductory Sociology, or SOC-101H Honors Introductory Sociology, or ANTH-1010 Cultural Anthropology, or PSY-1010 General Psychology, or PSY-101H Honors General Psychology; and ENG-1010 College Composition I, or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Identify and discuss some of the interdisciplinary social scientific theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, and research that pertain to relationship trends and lifestyle choices people make in the United States.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss the reasons for interdisciplinary approaches to intimate relationships.
2. Write critical analysis of at least one recent scholarly research article on current trends in intimate relationships and lifestyle choices in the U.S.
3. Analyze the current demographics of the most frequently occurring intimate relationships among adults across the life course in the U.S.

Course Outcome(s):

Apply sociological principles and critical, constructive thinking to deconstruct the essential elements of intimate relationships.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Identify the five major sociological perspectives used to study intimate relationships.
2. Discuss the intersectionality of ethnicity, race, gender, human sexuality, socioeconomic status, age, and place of residency on intimate relationships.
3. Critically analyze two types of intimate relationships in terms of style of love, sexual scripts, communication styles, social support, living arrangements, human sexuality, and conflict.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze, using a value neutral position, the human behaviors and values that promote or disrupt well-being in intimate relationships.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Critically discuss importance of value neutrality in social scientific research.
2. Identify and analyze popular values regarding intimate relationships in the United States.
3. Identify key ethical considerations for conducting social scientific research.
4. Compare and contrast human behaviors and aligned values that promote or disrupt intimate relationships.

Course Outcome(s):

Conceptualize the self and intimate relationships as parts of a larger social system, significantly influenced by the contemporary mass and social media.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Identify and analyze social media platforms for mating and dating for targeted groups, such as musicians, or people with a particular illness.
2. Critically analyze and discuss barriers to dating and intimate relationships posed by social media.
3. Critically analyze and discuss some of the risks and benefits of online dating and distance relationships.
4. Analyze the impact of mass media and popular culture on the choice to be in a committed, intimate relationship, and the decision to have children or not.
5. Construct an e-portfolio of an annotated bibliography of related readings and mass media as a foundation for further study of intimate relationships.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Discussion boards
2. Tests and quizzes
3. Evaluation of student interaction
4. Critical thinking exercises, written and oral
5. Participant observation reports
6. Application activities
7. Experiential Learning
8. Small and large group activities
9. Reflection Journals

10. Research activities
11. Mass and Social Media critiques

Course Content Outline:

1. Sociological theories and perspectives applied to intimate relationships
 - a. Macro-level theories
 - i. Structural functionalism
 - ii. Conflict theory
 - iii. Feminist theory
 - iv. Life course perspective
 - v. Family ecology theory
 - b. Micro-level theories
 - i. Symbolic interactionism
 - ii. Social exchange
 - iii. Family systems
 - iv. Developmental theory
 - c. Sociological imagination
2. Research methods and issues
 - a. Value neutrality
 - b. Ethics and research
 - c. Research techniques
3. Human sexuality
 - a. Psychosexual development throughout adulthood
 - b. Gender vs. sex
 - c. Popular culture and gender identity
 - d. Gender development
 - e. Gender roles
 - f. Gender issues
 - g. Human sexuality continuum
 - h. Gender and sexual scripts
 - i. Sex and relationships
 - j. Sexual problems
 - k. Sexual consent
4. Dating as process across the life course
 - a. Life-long dating in nonmarital and marital relationships
 - b. Pool of eligibles and marriage market
 - c. Stages of mate selection
 - d. Types of singles and cohabitation
 - e. "Hook-ups" and "friends with benefits"
 - f. Role of social media
 - g. Styles of love
 - h. Age, period, cohort effect
 - i. Special problems in dating
 - i. Stalking
 - ii. Intimate partner violence
5. Contemporary gender roles
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Gender differences in communication
6. Social stratification influences on dating process
 - a. Gender
 - b. Age
 - c. Race and ethnicity
 - d. Religion
 - e. Education, income, occupational prestige, power
 - f. Lifestyle (residence, consumption patterns)
 - g. Culture
 - h. Age/period/cohort effects
7. Dating, marriage, work and the economy

- a. Sandwich generation
 - b. Dual income couples
 - c. Second shift
 - d. Commuter relationship
 - e. Stay at home dad
8. Non-marital intimate relationships--types of cohabitation
- a. Racial-ethnic trends
 - b. Trial marriage
 - c. Precursor to marriage
 - d. Substitute for marriage
 - e. Alternative to singlehood
 - f. Alternative to marriage
 - g. Stage in the marriage
 - h. Cohabitation outcomes
9. Marital intimate relationships
- a. Utilitarian
 - b. Companionate
 - c. Total
 - d. Traditional vs. Contemporary
10. Effective communication and conflict resolution
- a. Intimate relationship and family stressors
 - b. Styles of conflict and conflict resolution
 - c. Consequences and coping
 - d. Positive communication strategies
 - e. Power in intimacy
11. Reproduction and parenting issues
- a. Child-free versus child-less
 - b. Single-parent families
 - c. Nuclear families
 - d. Cohabiting families
 - e. Same-sex parenting
 - f. Step-parenting and blended families
 - g. Shared custody
 - h. Biological assisted reproduction
12. Relationship disengagement
- a. Stages of disengagement
 - b. Divorce
 - c. Dilemma of domestic partnerships and cohabitation
13. Resolutions to disengagement
- a. Serial monogamy
 - b. Serial marriage
 - c. Reconstituted families
14. Issues of later life intimate relationships
- a. Partner availability
 - b. Health issues
 - c. Socioeconomic and cultural factors
15. Post-industrialized societies trends in intimate relationships
- a. Changing gender roles and identities
 - b. Mass Media effects
 - c. Social Media effects

Resources

Benokraitis, Nijole V. (2015) *Marriages & Families Changes, Choices, and Constraints*, Boston, MA: Pearson.

Hillier, Susan M. and Georgia M. Barrow. (2015) *Aging, the Individual, and Society*, Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Quadagno, Jill. (2014) *Aging and the Life Course*, New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

"Journal of Marriage and the Family"

Regan, Pamela C. (2017) *The Mating Game A Primer on Love, Sex, and Marriage*, Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Kimmel, M. & Messner, M. (ed.). (2018) *Men's lives*, New York: Macmillan.

Knox, David and Caroline Schacht. (2016) *Choices and Relationships*, Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Miller, Rowland. (2018) *Intimate Relationships*, New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Stinnett, Nancy, Stinnett, Nick, DeGenova F., Mary Kay, and Rice, Philip. (2016) *Intimate Relationships, Marriages, and Families*, Oxford University Press.

Strong, Bryan and Theodore F. Cohen. (2017) *The Marriage and Family Experience Intimate Relationships in A Changing Society*, Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Williams, Brian K., Stacey C. Sawyer, and Carl M. Wahlstrom. (2017) *Marriges, Families, & Intimate Relationships A Practical Introduction*, New York, NY: Pearson.

"Generations"

"Journal of Gerontology"

"The Gerontologist"

"Current Population Studies"

"Census Bureau"

"The New York Times"

"Journal of Health and Social Behavior"

"Journal of Sex Education and Therapy"

"American Demographics"

Wade, Lisa and Douglas Hartman and Chritopher Uggen. (2016) *Assigned Life with Gender*, New York, NY: WW Norton.

Bailey, B. "The economy of dating." In Mark Hutter, Ed. "The family experience"

"Social Problems"

"Social Forces"

Kass, L. The end of courtship. "The Public Interest"

Stets, J. "Journal of Family Issues"

Resources Other

1. The American Sociological Association. <http://www.asanet.org/>
2. Science Daily. www.sciencedaily.com
3. U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov
4. Oxford Happiness Questionnaire - Meaning and Happiness. www.meaningandhappiness.com
5. The Men's Bibliography. <http://ensbibilio.xyonline.net>
6. Transgender Resources. www.glaad.org
7. O.K. Trends Official Blog. <http://blog.okcupid.com>
8. Love Addicts Anonymous. www.loveaddicts.org

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