

UNIT INFORMATION

UNIT CODE	SO224	
UNIT NAME	Relationship and Families in Sociological Perspectives	
ASSOCIATED HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS	Bachelor of Human Services	
DURATION	One semester	
LEVEL	Intermediate	
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Stephen Beaumont	
TEACHING STAFF	Julie Robinson	
CORE / ELECTIVE	Core	
WEIGHTING	Unit credit points	10 (0.125 EFTSL)
	Course credit points	240 (3.0 EFTSL)
DELIVERY MODE	Face to face on site	
	External	
STUDENT WORKLOAD	<i>Face to face</i>	
	Contact hours	39 hours
	Reading, study and preparation	59 hours
	Assignment preparation	52 hours
	TOTAL	150 hours
	<i>External</i>	
	Engagement with study materials	90 hours
	Assignment preparation	60 hours
	TOTAL	150 hours
	Student requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.	
PREREQUISITES / COREQUISITES / RESTRICTIONS	Nil	

RATIONALE

A primary role of applied social sciences practitioners working in a broad range of professional roles and contexts is to engage effectively with relationship systems and family groups. It is essential therefore, for students within the Bachelor of Applied Social Science, to have a solid understanding of the socio-cultural discourses and influences which shape and impact relationships and families today, and the sociological theories that have been developed to help explain family experience.

This unit extends learning attained in SO102 Introduction to Applied Social Theories through the application of major sociological and Christian worldview perspectives to specific issues and experiences of people living in relationship systems and family groups today. Opportunity is also provided to consider the implications of the unit content for the student's developing personal approach to professional practice.

LEARNING DELIVERY PROCESS

Please check the semester and the mode that you are enrolled in as some units are offered in more than one mode (i.e. Internally or Externally).

INTERNAL

Learning outcomes will be addressed through on-site lectures, tutorials and assessments. In an internal unit, there will be 1 lecture per week (2 hours) followed by a tutorial for 1 hour. In general, the tutorial follows the lecture, but not in all cases. Please check the CHC timetable available on the CHC website.

Internal and intensive mode units

Students are expected to attend **at least 80% of class time** for units that are offered as weekly classes (Internal), or **80% of every session** for units that are offered as Intensives; unless a legitimate reason for absence (such as traffic hold-ups, mechanical breakdown, illness, serious personal difficulties, major accident or other extenuating circumstances) has been approved by the course coordinator. Students who are unable to attend classes on a given day should phone the CHC Reception by 9.00am so that lecturers can be notified.

Students should note that a number of the skills-based units *require* that they achieve attendance of at least 80%, and some units up to 100%, in order to be eligible for a passing result. When this condition applies, it will be clearly stated in the unit outline that is available on each Moodle™ unit page at the beginning of the semester. If a unit has a presentation assessment, students must attend the class presentations as part of the learning for the unit.

Students may place their results for the semester in jeopardy and may even fail a unit because of their inability to satisfy course attendance requirements.

Some guidelines for lectures:

- 80% attendance – a roll will be taken at each lecture.
- In case of illness, serious personal difficulties, major accidents and other extenuating circumstances, absences must be approved by the course coordinator with supporting evidence, but you must still meet the 80% attendance requirement.
- The lecture will be 2 hours in length with a 10-minute break in the middle.
- The lectures are very interactive, so please come prepared to contribute and you will get a lot more out of the lectures.
- Please don't be late as this is disruptive for other students and shows a lack of respect for your peers and the staff.

Tutorials begin in week 2 and end in week 13 so make sure that you know which class you are enrolled in by checking the CHC timetable before week 2 commences. Tutorials are the most vibrant part of your unit experience. They are a place where you will meet people, share ideas, have discussions, have disagreements and learn more about the particular topic than you could from just reading on your own. Thus, it is important to participate in tutorials and enjoy them for your own benefit and for the benefit of your peers. The crucial element to good tutorials is having all members of the class arrive having read at least the essential readings, answered the weekly activities and attended the lecture.

Some guidelines for tutorials:

- Avoid being late. This is unfair on other students who make an effort to get there on time. If you are going to be late, advise the lecturer/tutor in advance.
- You must do the readings. You will get a lot more out of the class if you do and very little if you don't.
- It should be noted that participation is not the same as attendance. Participation by all will ensure the subject is intellectually and personally significant.

EXTERNAL

Learning outcomes will be addressed through consultations with your supervisor, online information, readings, resources, discussion forums and activities that can be found in this unit handbook and on the Moodle page for this unit. As this is an external, self-directed unit, students will be required to engage with the material provided on CHC's LMS - Moodle. Materials will include PowerPoints, study guides, notes, readings and activities.

These resources will provide you with all you need to complete the assessments. However, you must be sure to follow the weekly topics in this handbook and to log-on to the Moodle page for this subject regularly as your participation in the weekly discussions and activities posted there is essential for your successful completion of this unit.

Some guidelines for external study:

- Aim to spend approximately 10 hours per week on study for each unit you are enrolled in.
- The 10 hours per unit may include: Reading the lecture slides before watching or listening to the lectures online (if available).
- Get familiar with unit content by completing required readings.
- Listening to my lectures online and taking notes.
- Revising and rewriting my notes.
- Participate in online discussions.
- Complete tasks on the LMS (Moodle).
- Research and write assessments.
- Get familiar with the library and what is available online as well as the journal database.
- Schedule assessment dates on a calendar/wall planner and put it somewhere visible in your study space.
- Plan regular (weekly) access to Moodle and email to keep in touch with the lecturer and other students.

You should treat the Moodle as if it were your classroom - except it's online! Maximising your engagement with the Moodle is the real difference between internal and external studies. Many lecturers will assess your engagement in online discussions, so it is important you are contributing regularly and know how to use Moodle.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

You will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the unit throughout and at the of semester to enable us to continually improve the subject. Feedback from previous years has been vital in reshaping course and unit content, materials and assessments.

CONTENT

1. Introduction and Christian worldview foundations.
2. Sociological perspectives of relationships and families: a structural-functionalist approach.
3. Symbolic interactionism.
4. Conflict theory.
5. Feminism and post-structuralism approaches.
6. Gender, couplehood, marriage in sociological perspective.
7. Parenthood and childhood in sociological perspective.
8. Families and ageing in sociological perspective.
9. Separation, divorce, remarriage, blended families in sociological perspective.
10. Work life and family life in sociological perspective.
11. Family diversity in sociological perspective.
12. Family religiosity and spirituality in sociological perspective.

- Family violence and abuse in sociological perspective.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this unit, students will have *demonstrated* that they have:

- Analysed major sociological perspectives concerning relationships and families.
- Evaluated a range of significant factors and issues impacting contemporary relationship systems and families.
- Critiqued sociological theories and issues related to relationships and families from the perspective of a distinctively Christian worldview.
- Applied knowledge and learning regarding the sociology of relationships and families to their developing frameworks of applied social sciences practice.
- Communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

ALL ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (MINIMUM PASSING GRADE) TO PASS THE UNIT.

TASK 1: CONCEPT MAP

Choosing three of the major sociological perspectives concerning relationship systems and families, provide a written critique representing how these perspectives both converge with and diverge from a Christian worldview.

Word Length/Duration: 1,500 words
 Weighting: 30%
 Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 5, 6
 Assessed: Week 6
 Method of Submission: Submitted as a hard copy to the Social Science Administration Office

TASK 2: CASE STUDY

Apply theoretical perspectives and knowledge explored in this unit to a relationship system or family with whom you have worked, or are working, in a context approved by your unit coordinator. How might the experiences and issues of this group of people be understood and explained through the application of relevant sociological theory and research? Also, how might perspectives explored in this unit help inform and guide an effective approach to working with this relational or family group? Include in your discussion a Christian worldview.

Word Length/Duration: 1,750 words
 Weighting: 35%
 Learning Outcomes: 1-6
 Assessed: Week 11
 Method of Submission: Turnitin

TASK 3: RESEARCH ESSAY

Evaluate one significant issue experienced by people in contemporary Australian society using a range of significant sociological perspectives, as well as that of a Christian worldview. In addition, discuss how learning from this task will be integrated into your developing approach to applied social sciences practice.

Word Length/Duration: 1,750 words
 Weighting: 35%
 Learning Outcomes: 1-5
 Assessed: Week 14
 Method of Submission: Turnitin

ASSESSMENT ALIGNMENT

Assessment Task	Learning Outcomes	Content	Graduate Teacher Standards	Graduate Attributes	ACWA Guidelines
Task 1	1-3, 5, 6	1-8	n.a.	1-3, 5-6	5
Task 2	1-6	1-12	n.a.	1-8	5-6
Task 3	1-5	1-13	n.a.	1-8	1-2, 5-7

SPECIALIST FACILITIES OR EQUIPMENT

Nil.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS

Chambers, D. (2021). *A Sociology of Family Life*. (2nd ed.). Polity Press.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

BOOKS

- Balswick, J. K., & Balswick, J. O. (2021). *The family: A Christian perspective on the contemporary home* (5th ed.). Baker.
- Barnett, O., Miller-Perrin, C., & Perrin, R. (2011). *Family violence across the lifespan: An introduction* (3rd ed.). Sage.
- Bengtson, V., Putney, N., & Harris, S. (2013). *Families and faith: How religion is passed down across generations*. Oxford University.
- Bruhn, J., & Rebach, H. (2014). *The sociology of caregiving*. Springer.
- Chambers, D. (2014). *Sociology of family life*. Polity Press.
- Riedman, A. (2013). *Families worldwide: Contexts and issues*. Routledge.
- Starbuck, G., & Lundy, K.S. (2014). *Families in context: Sociological perspectives* (3rd revised ed.). Paradigm.

JOURNALS

The International Journal of Sociology of the Family

OTHER

In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).

These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <http://www.biblegateway.com>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.

SAMPLE

