



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

**SO224**

**RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES  
IN SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

<b>Unit code</b>	SO224														
<b>Unit name</b>	Relationships and Families in Sociological Perspectives														
<b>Associated higher education awards</b>	Bachelor of Applied Social Science														
<b>Duration</b>	One semester														
<b>Level</b>	Intermediate														
<b>Core/Elective</b>	Core														
<b>Weighting</b>	Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: 240														
<b>Student workload</b>	<p><i>Face-to-face on site</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Contact hours</td> <td>39 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading, study, and preparation</td> <td>59 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignment preparation</td> <td>52 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>150 hours</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>External</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Engagement with study materials</td> <td>90 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignment preparation</td> <td>60 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>150 hours</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.</p>	Contact hours	39 hours	Reading, study, and preparation	59 hours	Assignment preparation	52 hours	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 hours</b>	Engagement with study materials	90 hours	Assignment preparation	60 hours	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 hours</b>
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<b>Delivery mode</b>	Face-to-face on site External														
<b>Prerequisites/ Corequisites/ Restrictions</b>	<i>Prerequisite</i> SO102 Introduction to Applied Social Theories														
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>														
<b>Prescribed text(s)</b>	Starbuck, G., & Lundy, K.S. (2014). <i>Families in context: Sociological perspectives</i> (3rd ed.). Boulder, CO: Paradigm.														

<p><b>Recommended readings</b></p>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <p>Balswick, J. K., &amp; Balswick, J. O. (2014). <i>The family: A Christian perspective on the contemporary home</i> (4th ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.</p> <p>Barnett, O., Miller-Perrin, C., &amp; Perrin, R. (2011). <i>Family violence across the lifespan: An introduction</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.</p> <p>Bengston, V., Putney, N., &amp; Harris, S. (2013). <i>Families and faith: How religion is passed down across generations</i>. New York, NY: Oxford University.</p> <p>Bruhn, J., &amp; Rebach, H. (2014). <i>The sociology of caregiving</i>. New York, NY: Springer.</p> <p>Chambers, D. (2012). <i>Sociology of family life</i>. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.</p> <p>Riedman, A. (2013). <i>Families worldwide: Contexts and issues</i>. Oxford, UK: Routledge.</p> <p><b>Journals</b></p> <p><i>The Family Journal</i></p> <p><i>The International Journal of Sociology of the Family</i></p> <p>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).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com">http://www.biblegateway.com</a>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<p><b>Specialist resource requirements</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>Content</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction and Christian worldview foundations</li> <li>2. Sociological perspectives of relationships and families: a structural-functionalist approach</li> <li>3. Symbolic interactionism</li> <li>4. Conflict theory</li> <li>5. Feminism and post-structuralism approaches</li> <li>6. Gender, couplehood, marriage in sociological perspective</li> <li>7. Parenthood and childhood in sociological perspective</li> <li>8. Families and ageing in sociological perspective</li> <li>9. Separation, divorce, remarriage, blended families in sociological perspective</li> <li>10. Work life and family life in sociological perspective</li> <li>11. Family diversity in sociological perspective</li> <li>12. Family religiosity and spirituality in sociological perspective</li> <li>13. Family violence and abuse in sociological perspective</li> </ol>
<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p>	<p>On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analysed major sociological perspectives concerning relationships and families;</li> <li>2. evaluated a range of significant factors and issues impacting contemporary relationship systems and families;</li> <li>3. critiqued sociological theories and issues related to relationships and families from the perspective of a distinctively Christian worldview;</li> <li>4. applied knowledge and learning regarding the sociology of relationships and families to their developing frameworks of applied social sciences practice; and</li> <li>5. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammars, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Assessment tasks</b></p>	<p><b>Task 1: Concept Map</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 5, 6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 6</p> <p><b>Task 2: Case Study</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,750 words</p> <p>Weighting: 35%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 10</p> <p><b>Task 3: Research essay</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,750 words</p> <p>Weighting: 35%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 13</p>
<p><b>Unit summary</b></p>	<p>This unit applies major sociological theories and perspectives to help students better understand the issues faced by and experiences of people in contemporary relationships and families in order to inform effective applied social sciences practice.</p>