The University of Southern Queensland  
Course Specification

**Description: Families and Society**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>2104</td>
<td>24768</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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**Academic Group:** FOEDU  
**Academic Org:** FOE004  
**HECS Band:** 1  
**ASCED Code:** 070101

**STAFFING**

Examiner: Shirley O'Neill  
Moderator: Kari Winer

**RATIONALE**

As the primary socialising institution, families are an essential focus of study in any program designed to prepare professionals working with children and families for the roles they play in today’s society. An understanding of the role played by the family in mediating between the individual and society, as well as the outcomes of this mediation process is central to working with young children. The family is considered as a site of both socialisation and resistance to prevailing hegemony. In coming to understand children, families and child-rearing, early childhood professionals need a sound knowledge of the ways in which families act to promote and support prevailing societal expectations, as well as their function in leading and responding to societal change.

**SYNOPSIS**

This course introduces students to the changing nature of the form, structure and function of the family in contemporary society. While the emphasis will be on the Australian context, opportunities for cross-cultural comparisons and explorations will be provided. Particular attention is given to relevant issues related to aboriginality. The course will also examine the nature and effect of social policies as they impact on socialisation. The implications of gender, class and ethnicity dimensions on families will be addressed. Social institutions such as education, religion, economy and government will be examined insofar as they impinge on and reflect changes in the role and form of contemporary family structures. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of government and economic policies and directions on services for young children and their families.

**OBJECTIVES**

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
• demonstrate an understanding of the socialisation process across cultures, in particular the development of perceptions, attitudes and values.
• demonstrate familiarity with selected aspects of Australian society, including their application to other cultures.
• demonstrate understanding of the role of major societal institutions as they impact on the family.
• clearly articulate the meaning of "diversity", and identify implications of this policy for the child care industry/schools.
• demonstrate an ability to analyse the effects of social change on the child care industry/schools.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Socialisation processes</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The family in Australian society, societal issues and family across cultures</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Social institutions and their impact on the Australian family</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Diversity and its implications for children and families</td>
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<td>5. The effects of social change</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 1 ESSAY</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>01 Sep 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 2 ESSAY/REPORT</td>
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</tr>
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**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   (a) There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   (b) To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available (or at least a grade of C-) for each assignment.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
(a) If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   (g) To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least x% in each of the summative assessments and at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   (a) The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
   (e) There is no examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   (d) There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. (c) The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (g) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience. (i) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distribution patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.
2 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.

3 Summative assessment items will be given a numerical score. Ungraded summative assessment will be given either Pass, Fail or Incomplete.