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>28170</td>
<td>3, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</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 and for schools
• demonstrate an ability to analyse the effects of social change

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>
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<tr>
<td>2. The family in Australian society, societal issues and family across cultures</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Social institutions and their impact on families</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Diversity and its implications for children and families</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<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.


Jureidini, R., Poole, M., & Kenny, S. 2000, *Sociology: Australian Connections*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, NSW.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</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>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 1 ESSAY</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19 Dec 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 2 ESSAY/REPORT</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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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:
(b) To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative
assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in
relation to the objectives of the course by: (i) satisfactorily completing the
examination and assignments; and (ii) obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted
marks available for all 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:
There is no examination 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) If requested, students will be
required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such
copies should be despatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request being
made. (c) The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment
in extenuating circumstances. (f) Students who do not have regular access to postal
services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given
special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate
such special arrangements. (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).