RATIONAL

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 Indigenous families and families from different cultural backgrounds. 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:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the socialisation process across cultures, in particular the development of perceptions, attitudes and values
2. demonstrate familiarity with selected aspects of Australian society, including their application to other cultures
3. demonstrate understanding of the role of major societal institutions as they impact on the family
4. clearly articulate the meaning of "diversity", and identify implications of this policy for the child care industry and for schools
5. 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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Diversity and its implications for children and families</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The effects of social change</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).


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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 1 ESSAY</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>27 Aug 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGN 2 ESSAY/REPORT</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>29 Oct 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   (b) It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled.
for them, and 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 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 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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in 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. (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 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.