

COURSE SPECIFICATION FORM
for new course proposals and course amendments

Department/School:	School of Law	Academic Session:	Valid from 2009/10
Course Title:	Sociology of the Family	Course Value: (UG courses = unit value, PG courses = notional learning hours)	0.5 unit
Course Code:	CR2019	Course JACS Code: (Please contact Data Management for advice)	L310
Availability: (Please state which teaching terms)	Autumn Term	Status: (i.e.: Core, Core PR, Compulsory, Optional)	Optional
Pre-requisites:	Year 1 Core courses	Co-requisites:	None
Co-ordinator:	Dr Vicki Harman		
Course Staff:	Dr Vicki Harman		
Aims:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider the role, function and nature of the family in contemporary society; 2. To critically explore the key sociological approaches to the family; 3. To examine changing patterns of family life and the wider social changes impacting upon the family; 4. To consider how social identities and different social positions (for example those related to class, gender, or ethnicity) impact upon notions of the family and the experience of family life; 5. To familiarise students with contemporary research related to families and family life, and equip students to critically evaluate this material. 		
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will have developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An appreciation of the role, function and nature of the family in contemporary society; 2. An understanding of the key sociological approaches to the family and the ability to critically evaluate competing perspectives; 3. Knowledge of the changes occurring in relation to family life and an understanding of some of the prevailing explanations; 4. An understanding of how gender, ethnicity and class impact upon notions of the family and family life; 5. Familiarity with contemporary research related to families and family life and the ability to critically evaluate such material. 		
Course Content:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thinking about families: Sociological approaches. 2. The family and social policy in the context of social change. 3. Families and local communities. 4. Work/life balance? Family life and the workplace. 5. Families and education. 6. Lone parent families: key issues and perspectives. 7. Ethnicity and family diversity. 8. Class and family life. 9. Gender, power and family life. 10. Course review. 		
Teaching & Learning Methods:	Lecture (1 hour per week) Seminar (1 hour per week).		
Details of teaching resources on Moodle:			
Key Bibliography:	<p>Annesley, C. Gains, F. and Rummary, K. (2007) <i>Women and New Labour: Engendering Politics and Policy?</i> Bristol: The Policy Press.</p> <p>Byrne, B. (2006) <i>White Lives</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>*Cheal, D. (2008) <i>Families in Today's World</i>, Abingdon: Routledge.</p> <p>Coleman, M. and Ganong, L. (2004) <i>Handbook of Contemporary Families</i>, London: Sage.</p> <p>Rowlingson, K. and McKay, S. (2001) <i>Lone Parent Families: Gender, Class and State</i>. Harlow: Prentice Hall.</p> <p>*Scott, J. Treas, J. and Richards, M. (eds.) (2004) <i>The Blackwell Companion to The Sociology of Families</i>. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.</p> <p>* Recommended for purchase</p>		
Formative Assessment & Feedback:	<p>Written comments on essays.</p> <p>Informal feedback on seminar presentations.</p> <p>Course evaluation by anonymous self-completion questionnaire.</p>		

Summative Assessment:	Exam (50%) (2 hours) 2 questions out of 6 Coursework (50%) One essay of 1800 - 2000 words Deadlines: as published in the student handbook
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The information contained in this course outline is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change as part of the Department's policy of continuous improvement and development. Every effort will be made to notify you of any such changes.