

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
SUMMER SEMESTER
SOC 3310: FAMILY AND KINSHIP IN A MULTICULTURAL CONTEXT
COURSE SYLLABUS CREDIT: 3 UNITS
INSTRUCTOR:**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides an indepth study of marriage and kinship issues in a multicultural and diverse context. It deals with preparations for marriage, the marriage itself, parenting and kinship relationships. It further highlights the key aspects, challenges and theories related to mate selection marriage in the contemporary multicultural setting.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

At the end of the course the students will be able to

- Explain the various basic concepts on marriage and kinship.
- List the various themes of mate selection and choice.
- Explicate the various aspects and types of marriages with accompanying challenges and opportunities.
- Appreciate the significance of marriage and kinship in their own lives and society.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1-2: Courtship and mate selection

- Definition of basic concepts of marriage and family
- Practices of courtship
- Mate selection
- Dating and courtship theories

Week 3

- Cohabitation
- Stress in dating process

Week 4-5: Marriage & Family

- Nature and types of families
- Types of marriages
- Decline on improved state of family?
- Married women and employment
- Phases of family cycle.

Week 6-7: Structural and Cultural Diversity Among Families

- One parent families
- Step families
- Two earner families

MID-SEMESTER EXAMS

Week 8-9:

- Blended families
- Extended kin families
- Bi culturalism e.g. US, Asia, Africa.

Week 10-11: *Diversity in Families (Cont'd)*

- Kinship systems
- Bonds of kinship

Week 12-13: *Parenting and Family Challenges*

- Parenting
 - Family & parenting
- Nature and challenges in the contemporary world.

Week 14: FINAL EXAMINATION

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. Lectures and discussions will be used in this class.
2. Guest Lecturer – (Week 1 & 2)

COURSE TEXTS

Kayongo-Male D. and P. Onyango, *The Sociology of the African Family* (Nairobi: Longman, 1991.)

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance & Participation	10%
Mid-term Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%
Term Paper	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%