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## Chapter 12: Marriage and Family

1




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## Marriage and Family in Global Perspective

- **Family**—consists of people who consider themselves related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
  - Nuclear vs Extended families

Which is most prominent in the U.S.?

2




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## Descent

- A **patrilineal system**—descent is traced only to the father's side.
  - **Patriarchy**—men dominate women.
- A **matrilineal system**—descent is traced only to the mother's side.
  - **Matrarchy**—women dominate men  
(there are six modern societies where women literally rule including: Mosuo, Minangkabau, Akan, Garo, Bribri, and Nagovisi)

3




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## Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

How might a functional theorist view the family?

The family is universal because it fulfills basic needs or functions within society.

4




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## What are some of the functions fulfilled by the family?

- socialization of children
- care of the sick and aged
- recreation
- sexual control
- reproduction/continuation of the society

5



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## Functionalists—believe the nuclear family has some disadvantages when compared to the extended family.

What might these be?

- Nuclear family does not provide the social supports provided by extended families
- May create isolation and emotional overload

6

## Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

### How might a conflict theorist view the family?

within the family there is a struggle over scarce resources.

- Power struggle between men & women
- Women pull a "second-shift" at home.

7

## The Second Shift

### What is the second shift?

—the household duties that follow the days work for pay.

- Typically, these have been seen as the wife's responsibility.
- Men "help out" when they feel like it.
- The strains from working the second shift affect not only the marital relationship, but also the wife's self-concept.

8

## Research at UNT

- Dr. Seward, who recently retired from the UNT sociology department, is an international figure in the study of the family and in particular fathers.
- **Men's behavior lags behind their attitudes** (for example: Many men believe in sharing work equally but still resist doing housework.)
- **Why don't men help more?**

9

### Playing dumb



## Research at UNT

- Gail Markle—Masters Degree Work: Research on young women's preparation for work and family
- Young women (and men) do not anticipate the difficulties in juggling the two

11

## Symbolic Interactionists

### What might a symbolic interactionist focus on when studying marriage and family?

- Interactions symbolic of love
- Things that are symbolic of love
- Symbols used during the marriage ceremony
- Symbols used by parents and teenagers to send messages to one another

12

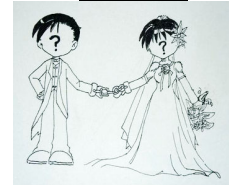
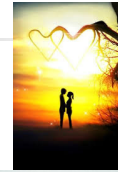
## The Family Life Cycle

1. Love
2. Marriage
3. Childbirth
4. Childrearing
5. The empty nest
6. The not-so-empty nest

13

## Love:

- **Romantic love**— people being sexually attracted to one another and idealizing the other.
- Often it is thought of as the only basis for Western marriages.
  - In the U.S. love produces marriage but in India marriage often produces love



4

## The Family Life Cycle: Marriage

2. **Marriage** —a group's approved mating arrangements, usually marked by a ritual.
  - **Mate selection** —each human group establishes norms to govern who marries whom.

15

## The Family Life Cycle: Marriage

What are the most common causes of divorce in the U.S.?

- Money
- Children

16

## The Family Life Cycle: Childbirth

### 3. Childbirth:

- Marital satisfaction decreases with childbirth.
- For the average working class couple, the first baby arrives just 9 months after marriage.

17

## 4: Childrearing

### Working Class:

- Physical punishment
- Sets limits but gives freedom (wild flower)
- Stresses conformity

### Middle Class:

- Withholds affection
- Provides guidance thru planned activity (garden grown)
- Stresses curiosity and self expression

18

5. What is meant by:

The empty nest?



5. **The empty nest** —when the last child leaves home, and the husband and wife are left.

- Women's satisfaction generally increases when the last child leaves home.
- U.S. children are leaving home later.

20

6. What is:

The not-so-empty nest?



21

6. **The not-so-empty nest**

—children often return home for an extended period of time

22

What are some trends that have/are occurring in U.S. Families? (say, over past 40 years)

**Trends in U.S. Families**

- **Postponing Marriage**
- **Cohabitation** — adults living together in a sexual relationship without being married.
  - Eight times more likely today than thirty years ago.

Why has cohabitation increased?

23

24

## Trends in U.S. Families

### Why has cohabitation increased?

- pre-marital sex not stigmatized
- young persons' experiences with divorce and the desire to avoid it

25

## Trends in U.S. Families

### What is the sandwich generation?



26

## Trends in U.S. Families

- **The sandwich generation** — people who are responsible for both their children and their aging parents.
- **Grandparents as parents**



27

## Divorce and Remarriage

- A couple's chances of still being married at the end of one year are 98%.
- The United States has the highest divorce rate in the world.

### Why is divorce so high?

28

## Two Sides of Family Life

- **The Dark Side**
  - **Family Violence** —each year about 3 million children are reported victims of abuse or neglect.
- **The Bright Side**
  - **Successful Marriages**—two of every three married Americans report they are very happy with their marriages.

29

## Children Adapting to Divorce

What factors do you think contribute to a child **successfully adapting** to divorce:

- Child feels close to both parents
- Child experiences little conflict and feels loved
- Lives with a parent who is making a good adjustment
- Has consistent routines

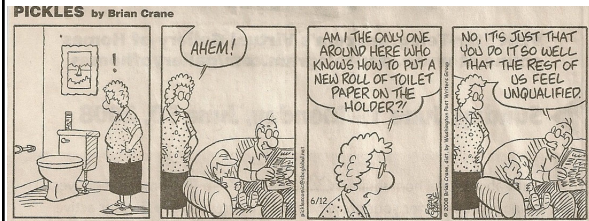
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## The Future of Marriage and Family

- Marriage is in no danger of becoming a thing of the past.
- Marriage is functional and exists in every society.
- Make up of the family is becoming more diverse.

31

## The End



32

While you are not responsible for all the material in Chapter 15, you are responsible for the following information (slides) that are related to Chapter 15

33

What is Social Change?  
Example?

A shift in the characteristics of culture and society.

What causes Social Change?

34

What causes Social Change?

5. Ogburn's Theory — social change is the result of technological changes.

35

Examples:

Plow allowed for agricultural society

Steam engine allowed for Industrial revolution

Microchip has allowed for information revolution

36

Computers in:

- Medicine
- The Workplace
- Business and Finance
- War and Terrorism

The Internet --communication and information gathering.

37

The spreading of new technologies:

Diffusion

--spread of a discovery or invention

Cultural Lag

--cultural elements lagging behind technological change

38

What is a social movement and how is it related to social change?

A large number of people who organize to promote or resist social change.

39

At the heart of social movements often lies a sense of injustice.

There are proactive and reactive social movements.

A proactive social movement promotes social change.

What would be an example?

40

A reactive social movement resists social change.

What would be an example?

Religious conservative groups

41

Example of a Social Movement:  
Protect the Environment

Step 1. Unrest and agitation:

Damage to the environment has created concern and caused people to mobilize.



42

## Social Movement to Protect the Environment

### 2. Resource mobilization

- money raised to inform public of situation
- Propaganda



43

(Example of a Social Movement: Protect the Environment)

### 3. Organization

A variety of organizations have emerged each with their own strategy. Examples include: Green Peace (below); Sierra Club; Environmental Defense Fund



44

Some organizations are militant (e.g., ecosabotage)

—actions taken to sabotage the efforts of people thought to be legally harming the environment.

45

## Kahoot

<http://www.create.kahoot.it/#login?next=>

Domestic Violence Documentary Film Excerpt  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v2LmM\\_FO-U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v2LmM_FO-U)  
(10:22 minutes)

Western Couples vs Chinese Couples  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk3wBuvM-U>  
(7:00 minutes)

Domestic Abuse: Caught on Camera: Panorama  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu4rP9wureY>  
(27:24 minutes)

47

Western Couples vs Chinese Couples  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk3wBuvM-U>  
(7:00 minutes)

Culture Differences: What My Chinese Wife Doesn't Understand About America  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stIeLxdbeIE>  
(10:48 minutes)