

**Lecture Notes:**

- ① Finding a mate and falling in love:
- some of the conditions favorable for “falling in love”:
    - 1 **homogamy**: romantic relationships with similar persons are positively sanctioned by referent others
    - 2 **endogamy**: romantic relationships with in-groups persons are positively sanctioned by referent others
    - 3 attitude similarity
    - 4 of sexual relationships: 90% of relationships are of same ethnicity and 84% of same educational level
    - 5 physical attractiveness (men are more affected by this characteristic)
    - 6 situational characteristics
    - 7 behavioral cues
    - 8 we like those who like use, who are like us, who believe like us, and who are similarly attractive
    - 9 feedback increases arousal
  - three minimal conditions for passionate arousal:
    - 1 exposure to romantic images or role models
    - 2 contact with an “appropriate” person to love
    - 3 any strong emotional arousal (which may not originate with the other person, but with the circumstances or other external conditions, we simply attribute it to the target individual, call it “love,” & rationalize from there)
  - premarital sexuality
    - differing male and female reproductive strategies
    - sex has become expected — in one recent sample of college couples, only 17% had not had intercourse
    - today, only 5% of women and 2% of men have sex for the first time on their wedding night
  - sexual histories or premarital cohabitation have no statistically significant influence on success of marriage
- Marriage, cohabitation and changing family structures in the industrialized world:
- **marriage** is a ceremony, a legal status, and a set of expectations regarding domestic arrangements
  - **divorce**: legally recognized way of dissolving a marriage
  - a short history of divorce in the US:
    - though marriage is an ancient institution, colonial Americans invented the idea of the **companionate marriage**
    - **companionate marriage**: union in which each partner is expected to fulfill the roles of lover, confidant, economic and domestic partner, and constant friend and companion
    - Americans loaded more expectations onto the role of marriage than any other historical people, and so have always had high divorce rates compared with the rest of the world (but the absolute rate has increased sharply since WWII and the overall marriage rate among cohabitating couples has declined)
    - the American idea of marriage, along with other aspects of US culture, has been exported around the world and has affected, but not totally replaced, many other indigenous ideas of marriage
  - negative effects of divorce on families and society
    - children grow up without two parents in residence
    - children lack sufficient models upon which to base their own relationships
    - mothers usually disproportionately burdened with familial duties and often lack sufficient support
  - positive effects of divorce on families and society
    - no marriage is often better than a bad marriage
    - allows option for finding new happiness in another marriage relationship

- ③ Variations in family structures
- sexual and reproductive combinations:
    - **monogamy**: exclusive sexual reproduction by both parties
    - **polygyny**: males have multiple partners, but females do not
    - **polyandry**: females have multiple partners, but males do not (much more rare in its institutionalized form)
  - many more types of family seen in post-industrial societies:
    - family of **orientation**: born/adopted into
    - family of **procreation**: marry and reproduce
    - family of **choice**: generally same sex couples
    - **nuclear** family: two parents and their children (now only about one-quarter of US families)
    - **extended** family: nuclear family and members of family of orientation
    - **blended** family: extended family and steps or halves
  - many factors contribute to changing the structure of contemporary families:
    - 1 higher expectations for marriage
    - 2 emphasis on personal fulfillment overriding economic concerns
    - 3 increasing proportion of stable reproductive/cohabiting relationships outside conventional marriage
    - 4 higher divorce and remarriage rates
    - 5 increasing single-parent families
    - 6 increased average age contributing to higher divorce and remarriage
    - 7 additional economic opportunities for women in the workforce
- ④ Do we really treat children and family well in the US?
- **ideal culture**: values, beliefs, and norms a society claims as central to its operation or way of life
  - **real culture**: values, beliefs, and norms actually practiced or observed in a society
  - **cultural inconsistency**: state in which the practices of the real culture contradict the goals of ideal culture
  - some facts about the condition of US children:
    - 22% (US Gov't) to 24% (LIS) of all US children grow up in homes with annual incomes under the poverty line
    - 9% of all US children grow up in extreme poverty (under 50% of the federal poverty level)
    - 22% of all 2-year olds have not received proper immunizations
    - 14% of all children have no health care coverage of any kind
    - only 33% of female-headed households receive any type of alimony or child support payments
    - 9.9 per 1000 (or 1%) of all US children die before the age of one — 30% to 50% of these are preventable
    - rate of child and teen death by accident, homicide, and suicide is 93 per 100,000 annually
    - juvenile violent crime arrest rate is 507 per 100,000 annually
    - though estimates vary widely, up to 1 in 6 male and 1 in 4 female children (under age 14) are sexually abused
    - 10% of all teenagers drop out of high school
    - 1996: 38% of all 4<sup>th</sup> graders were deficient in mathematics ability — most never make this up
    - 1996: 40% of all 8<sup>th</sup> graders were deficient in basic science knowledge
    - ! all of these put the US behind many other developed nations, despite our overall comparative national affluence

### Key Ideas:

Family, kinship, marriage, divorce, cultural inconsistency, homogamy, endogamy.