

CHAPTER 11

Sociology in Praxis

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Chapter 10

Families



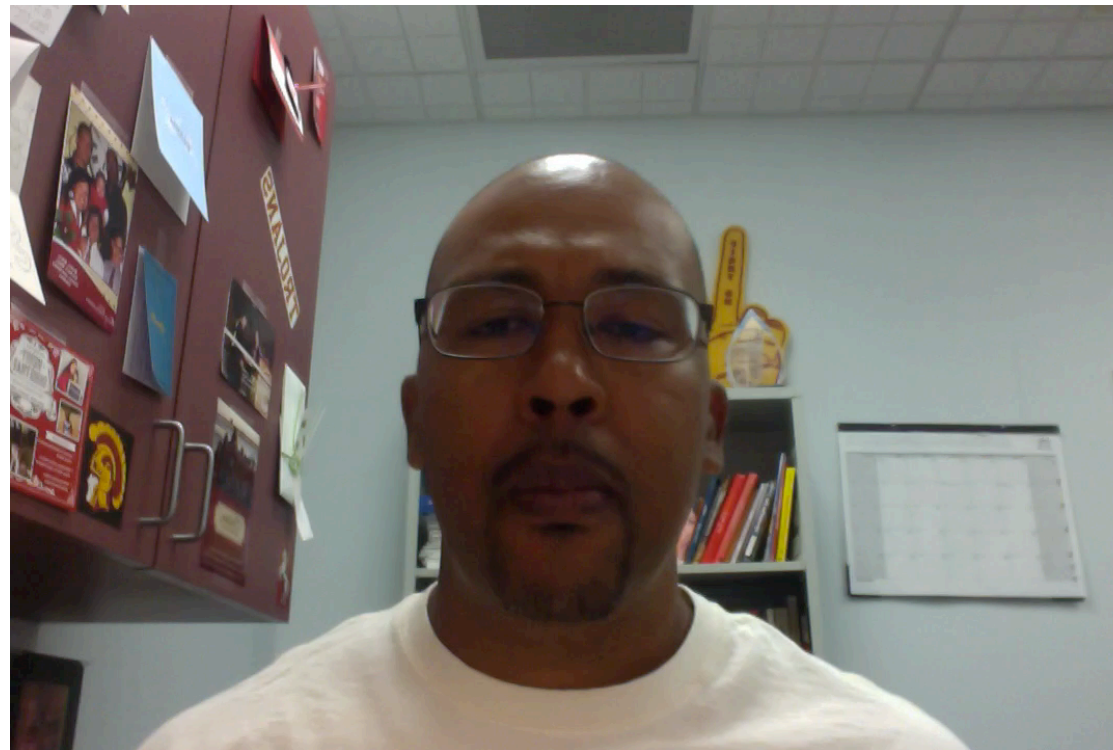
Section 1

What is a Family?

Although there are many people that we would consider close to us, a **family** is based on shared genetic heritage and the laws that socially recognize and affirm that bond, including both marriage and adoption. The family is the foundational social institution of any society because of the five vital functions it performs:

1) *Reproduction* is the primary purpose of a family. Although there are many alternative forms (discussed later in this chapter), the model that creates the most well-balanced, emotionally stable and overall

Movie 1.1 Are First Cousin Marriages Legal?



1) <https://youtu.be/IBul707Ps1Y> - Video

2) *What is the main point of this video?*

3) *What are some of the states that allow first cousins to marry? Did any of those surprise you? Explain*

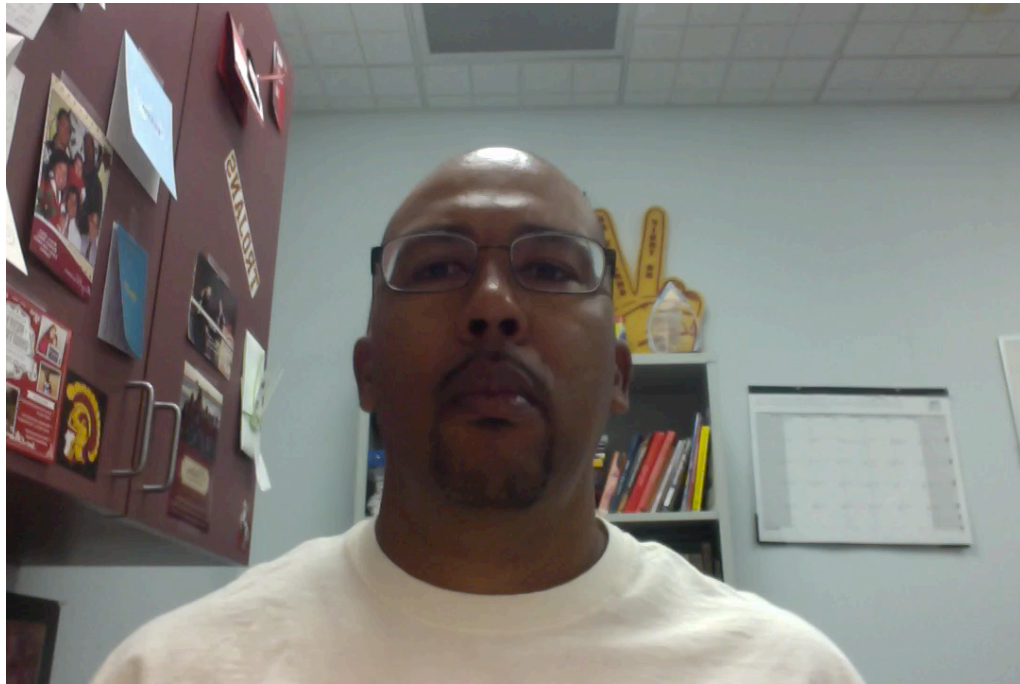
Movie 1.2)

successful children is the two biological parent model.

2) *Regulation of sexual behavior* happens within the concept of **exogamy**, which is the cultural norm in which people marry outside a particular group, usually one's family or certain kinfolk. Every society has rules behind how genetically far two people have to be from each other to reduce the possibilities of congenital disabilities. (View Movie 1.1)

3) *Social placement* is not often talked about regarding family but rises to considerable importance in larger societies. One way that this is done is through **endogamy**, which is the cultural norm where people marry within certain social groups. (View

Movie 1.2 Endogamy and Race



1) <https://youtu.be/9riZxPNVD1k> - Video

2) *What is the main point of this video?*

3) *What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*

4) *Can you think of reasons why interracial marriages have not become more common? Explain.*

4) *Socialization* happens in families through the process of raising children. This process is where parents first give their children the impression of what is right and wrong, good and bad, and desirable and undesirable regarding their behavior.

5) *Protection, Affection and Companionship* are an essential part of what keeps families together and if these rules are violated

trust may deteriorate between family members and often result in the dissolution of intimate relationships.

Family Types

The vast majority of the world values the **extended family model**, which is a family where relatives—such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles—live in the same household as parents and their children. In these cultures, it is completely normal and even expected, that after a son or daughter is married, for the family to add a room to their home. It is also the responsibility of the children to take care of their parents when they are no longer able to live independent lives.

Although people may choose to live in extended family situations, in the US, we value the **nuclear family model**, which consists of a married couple and their unmarried, non-adult children living together. Our society promotes this behavior through the building of single-family homes with two-car garages. This design encourages children to move out on their own because there is no proper place to park their cars. Another element that arises through this desire is retirement homes, which is where many of our parents go when they get old.

Lastly, our media supports this model by showing images that a “proper” family is a nuclear family by degrading the extended family model. Take the *George Lopez Show* for instance. Although George is of Mexican heritage and this culture strongly

supports the extended family model, it can be argued that because this show was filmed in the US that they made fun of both George's mother and later Angie's father when they moved in rather than demonstrate how having grandparents in the same household could be beneficial to all family members, e.g. the grandparents can help out financially, can give the parents a break by watching the children and the grandparents can pass down their wisdom to their grandchildren.

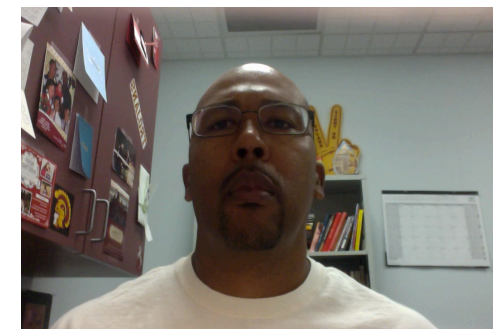
Kinship Patterns

Kinship is the state of being related to others. Societies who value the extended family model tend to have intimate knowledge of their families and often know their second and third cousins, while in the US it is common for people to not even personally know all of their first cousins. If you do know your relatives, it is typically associated with just one side of the family or the other. **Matrilineal descent** happens when the mother's relatives are important in terms of property, inheritance, and emotional ties, while **patrilineal descent** is where only the father's relatives are significant. You can usually tell which type of descent pattern your family follows by how you spend your holidays. If you spend all of your important holidays with your mother's side of the family, then you are most likely under matrilineal descent. However, there is also the possibility that your family practices **bilateral descent** where both sides of a person's family are regarded as equal. Although this is ideal for most people, this

model can get complicated around the holidays. Most people that want to promote the equality of both sides of the family will split time on important holidays, i.e. spend Thanksgiving with the mother's side, while spending Kwanza with the father's side. If your family is close together, then you may even choose to spend the morning with one side of the family and the afternoon with the other side.

Although shared genetic heritage and the law typically define whom we consider family, there are times where we take it on ourselves to create family-like relationships. **Fictive kin** is where friends who are not related by blood or marriage *become* family. These may be as informal as having *play* cousins, but can be more official as they are with godparents. (View Movie 1.3)

Movie 1.3 Why People Have Fictive Kin



- 1) <https://youtu.be/EUwl5yJKfRE> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of any other examples of other groups that have fictive kin? Explain.*

Section 2

Types of Marriage

Many parts of the world practice **polygamy**, which is a form of marriage in which an individual may have several husbands or wives simultaneously. When most people think of this type of marriage, they are usually thinking of **polygyny** where the man can marry more than one woman at a time, because historically this kind of marriage was the most common. Many countries where Islam is the national religion have this form of marriage. However, **polyandry** is where a woman can marry more than one man at the same time and is not uncommon in places like Tibet, Nepal, and parts of China and India.

In the US, we practice **monogamy**, which is a form of marriage in which two consenting adults are married only to each other for life. However, high divorce rates have moved our society into what is now referred to as **serial monogamy**, which is a form of marriage in which a person may have several spouses in his or her lifetime but only one spouse at a time. This practice increases the occurrence of **blended families**, where children from their parents' prior relationships are brought together in a new family. Although having stepparents and/or siblings (being a parent or sibling through law, not blood) and half siblings

(brothers and sisters with only one common parent) is relatively common, these family forms are not well represented in our media. (View Movie 1.4)

Movie 1.4 Poetry in Praxis

Stepson by the Professor



1) <https://youtu.be/Np-0ePOJ6GU> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Love, Marriage and Divorce

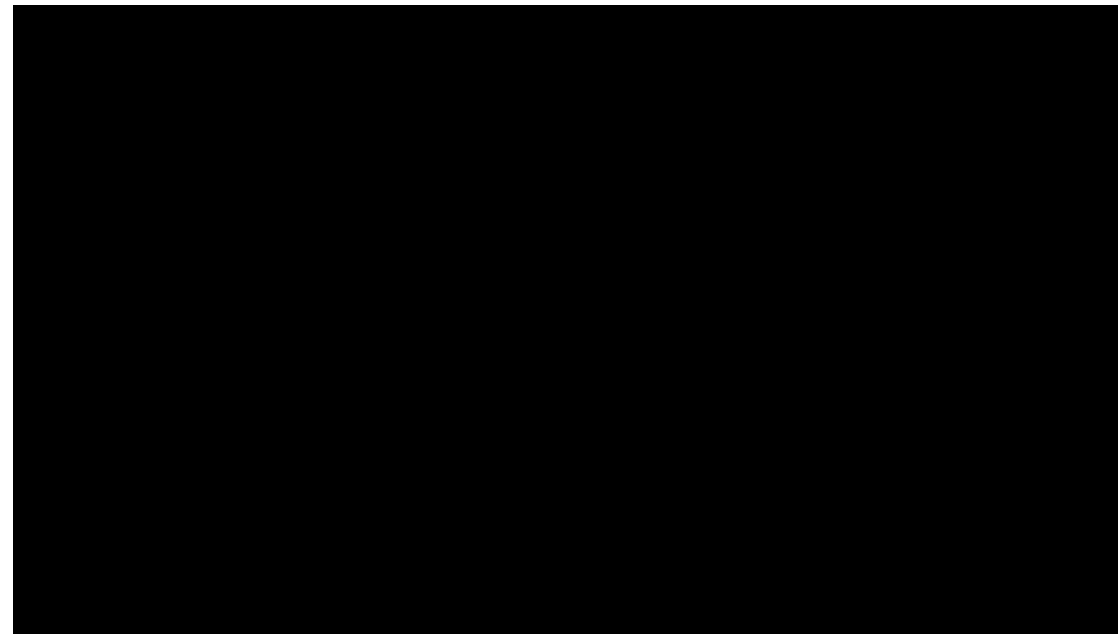
Courtship and mate selection is an inherently social phenomenon.

Although who people date may have considerable variation, we tend to stay within prevailing cultural norms when it comes to marriage.

Homogamy is the conscious or unconscious tendency to select a mate with personal characteristics similar to one's own. Do they want children? Are they the same age? Do they believe that children should not be spanked? Do they like to go camping? Do they put the toilet paper on the roll *correctly*? Do they like scary movies? Are we the same political party? Do we like the same types of music? Do we have the same core values? These questions can set the tone for what a person is looking for in a potential mate. This concept is different than endogamy in that it commonly refers to more individual

characteristics rather than the broad groups, i.e. race, ethnicity and religion, of endogamy. (View Movie 1.5)

Movie 1.5 *Keys to Staying Married* by Strange Fruit Sociology



- 1) <https://youtu.be/jxPYtDrc1ec> - Video
- 2) *What are some of the main points of this video?*
- 3) *What does Dr. Hoskins suggest is one of the main reasons why people get divorced? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Why do you think marriages are so hard to maintain? Explain.*

Although many people value *sameness* on certain values, many people also search for mates that are opposite to other characteristics. This pattern is called **hypergamy** where people become attracted to and marrying someone different to themselves. For example, two emotional people usually do not marry each other. An emotional person usually marries someone that does not talk about his or her emotions very well. Spontaneous people tend to marry people that are more stable. Sloppy people tend to marry someone that is neat. This situation is encapsulated with the phrase *opposites attract*. However, this concept can cross over into socioeconomic status where people

consciously marry someone from a different class status, usually a higher status. In this situation, women tend to marry men of higher socioeconomic status and this remains the primary manner in which women obtain upward mobility.

Unfortunately, where there is marriage, there is also divorce. Although difficult to measure, it can safely be said that approximately 50% of all first marriages end in divorce. However, what is more telling is that second marriages and beyond have an even higher divorce rate. There are many factors that correlate with our nation's high divorce rates, from economic disadvantage to different religious beliefs to significant differences in age between marriage partners. If you speak with people who have gone through a divorce, they may also add infidelity, lack of communication, physical and verbal abuse, drug and alcohol addictions and lack of sexual intimacy to just name a few. However, if these are the reasons for people getting divorced then why are high divorce rates in the US a relatively recent phenomenon?

Sociologists would argue that high divorce rates can be better explained through shifting social norms versus an increase in divorce-worthy behavior. Perhaps the largest social factor that contributes to high divorce rates is **no fault divorces**, which became widely practiced in the US in the 1970's. Before this time, the only reasons why someone could get divorced were because of adultery, physical abuse and absenteeism. However, no fault divorces simplified the rationale for divorce to *irreconcilable differences*, which suggests that two people can get a divorce for virtually any reason. In some states, divorce does not even have to be agreed on by both people in the relationship.

Another social factor that contributes to high divorce rates is the broad social acceptance of this practice. There was a time when an individual who was divorced was shunned and socially ostracized. However, this is not the case any longer in our society. The primary reason for this shift is because of how the media portrays divorce. Whether it is through movies, gossip magazines or TV shows that cover Hollywood celebrities, divorce is shown to be a typical result for marriages even amongst the rich and famous. Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren, Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, Madonna and Guy Ritchie are just a few high-profile divorces in the entertainment industry, but more notable are the short marriages of Kim Kardashian to Kris Humphries which lasted less than three months, while Drew Barrymore's marriage to her first husband Jeremy Thomas lasted less than two months.

Maybe one of the greatest social factors that influence divorce rates that does not receive much attention is the increased financial independence of women. The Feminist Movement of the 60's helped to create for women greater access to college and jobs that paid a livable wage. As a result, women today do not have to depend as much on their spouses for financial support and therefore do not need to stay in loveless marriages because of financial dependence.

Diverse Lifestyles

High divorce rates and a decrease in the value of marriage as an institution has led many people to construct diverse lifestyles that are less socially accepted, but increasing in popularity.

1) **Cohabitation** is where an intimate couple chooses to live together without marrying. Almost half of individuals in their twenties and thirties have cohabited at one time or another. Although many people believe that this practice decreases the chances of divorce, research by Galena Rhoades, Stanley Scott and Howard Markham (2009) found that people who eventually get married after they cohabit have lower marital satisfaction and higher divorce rates of people that did not cohabit before marriage. However, the age of the participants and the purpose of living together may be mitigating factors.

Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis

Spelling Father by Marshal Davis-Jones



1) <https://youtu.be/AqL7nbcxMk4> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

2) **Single-Parent Families** result from divorced families or a person that decided to have a child out of wedlock. Mark Mather states in the Population Reference Bureau (2010), that approximately 24% of children in the US live in a single mother family, while about 5% live with single fathers. About 16% of white families with children under 18 are single parents, 27% of Hispanic families, and 52% of African-American families. 7 out of 10 children in single mother families live in poverty, and this is primarily due to only 31% of female-headed households reported receiving child support. (View Movie 1.6)

3) **Stepfamilies** occur when two people are married that have children from a prior relationship. However, research suggests that children of stepfamilies may not be better off than children of divorced and/or single-parent households.

4) **Remaining Single** is when a person decides to not marry over their entire lifetime. Fewer than 4 percent of women and men in the U.S. are likely to remain single throughout their lives. Pearl Dykstra and Anne-Rigt Poortman (2010) also suggests that high resource women and low resource men are the most likely candidates for this lifestyle. Also, contrary to popular belief, highly educated men are also more likely to stay single than their less educated counterparts.

5) **Marriage Without Children** occurs if a couple cannot have children, decide not to have children or get married when they are past childbearing years. About 16 to 17 percent of women will complete their childbearing years without having borne any children, compared to 10 percent in 1980.

6) **Lesbian and Gay Relationships** occurs when people of the same sex make lasting commitments to each other. Now that the United States Supreme Court has deemed laws that banned same-sex marriages unconstitutional much more people will be committing to each other in this manner.

7) **Egalitarian Marriage** is when partners consciously share decision-making and assign family roles based on talent and choice rather than on traditional roles. In other words, if the male likes to wash dishes and the female likes to do the finances they should be allowed to do them rather than try to stick to traditional gender roles. These families emerged from

the belief that the imbalance in workloads at home and work is ultimately what leads people to get divorced.

Section 3

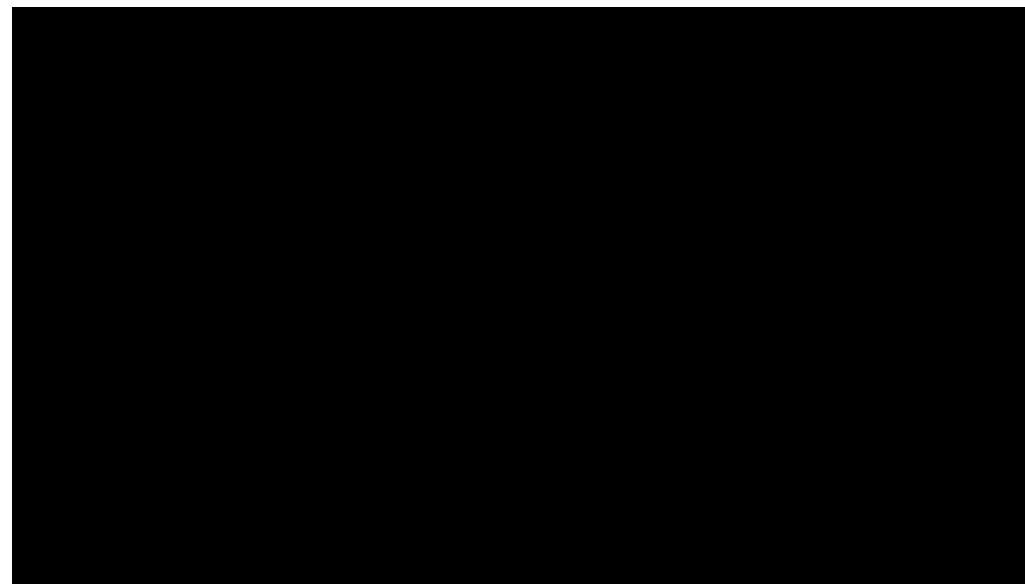
Sociological Perspectives on the Family

Functionalist focus on the continuity and stability of society and therefore promote that supporting and maintaining the nuclear family is of paramount importance. They would point out that the impact of divorce on children is drastic, with research showing that children of divorced parents have more difficulty in school, more behavior problems, more negative self-concepts, more problems with peers, and more trouble getting along with their parents. These issues strongly suggests that the two biological parent family is the best way to raise healthy, emotionally well-balanced and socially productive children. (View Movie 1.7)

However, what would happen if

Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis

Marriage by Rudy Francisco



- 1) <https://youtu.be/6KRpZKBMnSc> - Video
- 2) *What is the poem about?*
- 3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*
- 4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*
- 5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

single-parent families received the same social support as the two-biological-parent families? How families are supported is a question asked by *conflict theorist* who would propose that traditional marriage patterns have declined and that our society needs to equitably support diverse lifestyles because not to do so ultimately hurts our children. 7 out of 10 children live in single female-headed households live in poverty. Rather than trying to force these women into stepfamily situations that research suggests may not be better than remaining a single parent; society needs to economically

and socially support single parents. Conflict theorists would state that our society has moved past the notion of traditional marriage as a lifelong commitment and so must adjust to this reality.

One of the things that *symbolic interactionist* would be interested in is why marriages in our society focus on love rather than duty or commitment as with most non-European countries (including the US and Canada) and would seek out an understanding of this concept. Love may be the most confused word in the English language. Is it a feeling? Is it an action? Is it both? In *the Wedding Crashers* (2005), the definition of true love was your soul's recognition of its counterpoint in another. This statement may sound really cool in a movie, but how does this definition help you know when you are in love? Many people, even if they are not Christians, have 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 read at their weddings:

4 Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others; it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails... (New International Version)

These verses are a very *functional* definition that suggests that if you are willing to do all of these things for a person, then that should mean that you love them. However, one element of this definition does not fit our social reality; Love never fails. If people practiced this definition rather than just have it read at their

wedding, it seems logical to deduce that there would be fewer divorces. So defining love, as difficult as it may seem, would be of great interest to symbolic interactionist. (View Movie 1.8)

Movie 1.8 Poetry in Praxis

Love Type Love by Shihan



1) <https://youtu.be/hJZkBWBashA> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Chapter Review

Chapter Vocabulary ***parentheses indicate page number***

Family (2)

Exogamy (2)

Endogamy (2)

Extended Family Model (3)

Nuclear Family Model (3)

Kinship (4)

Matrilineal Descent (4)

Patrilineal Descent (4)

Bilateral Descent (4)

Fictive Kin (4)

Polygamy (7)

Polygyny (7)

Polyandry (7)

Monogamy (7)

Serial Monogamy (7)

Blended Families (7)

Homogamy (8)

Hypergamy(8)

No Fault Divorces (9)

Cohabitation (10)

Stepfamilies (11)

Egalitarian Marriage (11)

Key Terms ***need to illustrate concept with an example***

Exogamy

Endogamy

Fictive Kin

Homogamy

Hypergamy

Bullet-point answer questions:

- 1) What are the five functions of a family?
- 2) What are the three types of kinship patterns?
- 3) What are the six diverse lifestyles?

Short answer questions:

- 1) What is the difference between exogamy and endogamy and give an example of each?
- 2) What is the difference between homogamy and hypergamy and give an example of each?
- 3) What is the difference between monogamy, serial monogamy, polyandry and polygyny and name places that practice these forms of marriage?

Critical thinking questions:

- 1) Define the sociological imagination and explain how you learned what a family is and how it was socially enforced.
- 2) How could you figure out the type of family that a particular society values? Give examples to illustrate your point.

Transcripts

Movie 1.1 Are First Cousin Marriages Legal?

So there's some places in the United States that allow first cousins to marry and before I proceed I'm going to give you a moment to push pause right now I want you to think and write down the list of those states that you think would allow first cousin marry ok so push pause if you need to and now I'm about to rattle off two states in alphabetical order here we go Alabama, that might have made it onto your list, Alaska, California, probably didn't make it onto your list, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. So technically there's an even number of southern and northern states that allow the marriage between first cousins while the most stringent states are mostly in the Midwest now I have a question why did you guess the states that you did if we're being honest we would probably say that there's a lot of stereotypes of people from the South being "quote" stupid that emanates from the idea that they're inbred, but what if I told you, and this is the truth, this is the research facts here what if I told you that scientists have

actually found that there is no biological reason for us to not allow cousins to marry but if this is true then what does that mean about marriage what does that mean about our concept of family what does that mean about our society if we know that we could allow for his cousin married because there's no biological reason to not do that and yet we continue to do it but one of the things that we definitely have to address here is that we should get rid of the stereotype that people from the South are dumb because of inbreeding because just as many states in the North allow first cousin marriages also

Movie 1.2 Endogamy and Race

So the laws of this land used to keep us separate from each other through this thing called anti-miscegenation laws which means that people who are considered different races could not intermarry this was found in 1967 in the case of Loving versus Virginia to be unconstitutional and society has been very slow to change its actual marriage practices right and it's so slow that in Alabama the last day to remove this law from their books was in the year 2000 right and so and and although they removed it there was still forty-one percent of the population who was

against removing this law right and so although anti-miscegenation laws were deemed unconstitutional back in 1967 only about eight percent of all new marriages happened with people from different races now understand that we're talking about marriages not dating, because you can date anyone and don't have to tell your family or anything about it but marriage is a whole different deal normally marriages need to involve family and what not because family has more influence on who you marry rather than who you date and so lastly we also see some patterns within who is most likely to interracially marry. Asian females top the list, they are far more likely to interracially marry than their Asian male counterparts while the flip side is true for black folks that black males are more likely to interracially marry than they're black female counterparts now in my research that I did I argue that at least partially the reason for all of this is an intersection of race and gender. Asian women are socially constructed to be of more feminine than black females and therefore are considered to whatever degree more socially desirable while the reverse is true for black men vs Asian. black men are constructed as hyper-masculine therefore making them more desirable marriage partners than Asian man who tend to be characterized as feminine and so although there's a lot of factors to consider on this is at least one of the ones that I found in my research.

Movie 1.3 Why People Have Fictive Kin

Having fictive kin is not a new idea. People have always had to need to build up the groups of people that they feel they can trust. Many people have godparents or even play cousins but for African captives in the United States the idea of fictive kin was actually a necessary survival adaptation because of slavery you know in the U.S. they use chattel slavery we talked about that in previous chapters and so on black people were literally treated like a piece of property with no rights and no consideration and so parents would be separated from their children like puppies being sold away from their mothers and so African captives would literally take on a parental role with the children that were torn away from their biological parents this was so commonplace that the name of Big Mama was given to the woman that would take the responsibility for the children and the role of big model continue to carry meaning of even after slavery into the Jim Crow era many black people that are my age and older especially on this in the South usually remember having a maternal figure in a neighborhood that actually had permission to lay their hands on you if they caught you and your friends messing around in the wrong place at the wrong time I'm and if you were too quick for her she would surely tell your mother and you knew that you were walking home to a butt whooping so then Big Mama is not just a movie starring Martin Lawrence but a very real and necessary adaptation within the black community to battle against the active of destruction of their families throughout United States history.

Movie 1.4 Poetry in Praxis

Stepson by the Professor

When I first heard my stepson use the word "Dad" to describe me, I felt about as small as a three-year-old trying on Shaquille O'Neal shoes. Because how could I be a dad when I felt so little? Because I knew so little, because I spent so little time with my own father, and I learned how to be a man from my mother, which was better than nothing, but I always knew that there was something missing like, directions, and so I asked God "Could you please send me the directions to my stepson's heart and give me a navigational system that will help me traverse all the empty tears, broken promises, and church services?", where I prayed I would become a bigger man. Then an angel delivered a letter to me from heaven, wrapped in aluminum foil, and bubblegum, as if God was telling me to chew on this, until sparks come flying out of my mouth and it read "Your stepson's heart is in a place called 'why doesn't my father love me?'" It's on the corner of forever and nowhere in the world, too big to give a damn. And I sighed in relief because I knew the place well, but better than that, I knew how to get out, from under long shadows of forgotten yesterdays that still smell stale gum drops and birthday cards with money in them, so that I can try and buy better memories than my father could ever give me out, from the boxes of government cheese, hand-me-down clothes that never fit quite right, and shoes that learned how to speak much earlier than I ever did. Out, from

under electrified cages that my heart was not willing to touch, not because it would hurt too much, but because if I was to grab those bars, it would have eliminated any chance of me ever filling in those daddy shoes because with him, I learned that the shoes didn't slip off of my feet anymore, and although they were still clunky and awkward, I learned how to walk in them, and then run, and then I ran back to the place of Why doesn't my father love me on the corner of forever and nowhere in a world too big to give a damn and I saw it in my stepson, was now just my son, and my love for him had transformed me into his father, so I took him by the hand and told him to come home because I love him, and so he doesn't have to ask that question anymore.

Movie 1.5 *Keys to Staying Married* by Strange Fruit Sociology

BRUCE: So look, I just got finished looking at the you know the, well I don't know, I don't want to call them tabloids, but the newsreel and whatnot. and I just started watching...

ANT: I look at TMZ every day.

BRUCE: Ok so..

ANT: I'm not afraid to admit it.

BRUCE: And so, anyway. So I just got finished seeing that Nicholas Sparks, the dude that wrote The Notebook, just got separated from his wife. Now look, I'm just saying, Mmmm. Dude is probably, every time my wife hears about a Nicholas Starks's

book or Nicholas Starks's movie, she gets all like warm and like "Yo, it's going to be so romantic", and all of this stuff. Dude is separated from his wife. I'm just saying. Obviously we need more than romance in order to keep a marriage together. So Ant, what can we do? What can we do? Give me your resume, and we, how long you been married?

ANT: I been married just...why you gonna do it on camera? First of all...we discuss what we gonna talk about. Asking me "how long?"

BRUCE: I'm sorry. I thought, I just thought it was going to give you validation. But, I guess not, okay.

ANT: Awww man, we are going to be celebrating 8 years this year.

BRUCE: 8 years. I think that that's good. Especially in today's society. I mean shoot, you made it out of the first year.

ANT: I mean look. It's just, I, see we got married on a September. So when the year changes, I start doing the subtraction, and then I be like "oh wait is it, is seven or eight because it is a weird thing", but anyway. So one of the things we say was, the key to staying married. Now that we know that being romantic and doing The Notebook esque-type stuff, may not necessarily be the key. I'll tell you for me the key to staying married, and I'm not saying nothing to ya'll that my wife don't already know. One, keep your ring on your finger. No matter where you go, no matter what

you do, you keep the ring on the finger. Number Two, you go home every night. You sleep in your bed, next to your partner, every night. Now the key to this is, if you keep your ring on your finger, and you go home every night, it's a whole lot of decisions that you not gonna go through with because you know your ring is on, and you going home that night.

BRUCE: Yeah, yeah...

ANT: There's a lot of other little stuff, but those are my two main things. Not that, that doesn't make for a good, Notebook, romantic, soft music, mood lighting type of movie.

BRUCE: Yeah, you know what I...

ANT: But that's the reality.

BRUCE: No, it absolutely is, and the other thing that I think is so real, so real, that people just completely misunderstand, is what marriage actually is. Like marriage, that you, you really have to redefine what Marriage, what happiness is, and what, what it actually means to be married. And what happiness is, in order for you to stay married because if you think that every day is supposed to be The Notebook, if everyday supposed to be this grand, mountaintop revelation of "oh my god, how much do I love this woman next to me?" or like yo, do you think that every moment supposed to be like that? If you supposed to, if you think that every moment is supposed to end in some big Disney ending, or something like that. You are not going to stay married

for very long. I'm just gonna be, that's just for real. You are not gonna stay married for very long because marriage, there's gonna be hardship, there's gonna be arguing, there's gonna be, I've been married for 17 years, god bless it, I've been married for so, for over 17 years, and we, my wife and I, we still argue. And every once in a while, we still get into a big argument and whatnot, and because, and you know that things are transitioning in her life, things are transitioning in my life. As a woman, don't be mad, but as a woman she has some, and I'm 43, and so you know there's, there's some...

ANT: We go through changes.

BRUCE: We go through changes, you know, exactly.

ANT: We go through changes.

BRUCE: I'm not trying to get all like a biology class, whatever, look we go through changes and, and the thing that makes my wife and I successful, if you would, as staying married, and don't define success as "not getting into an argument", quite honestly, marriages that don't have arguments are really weird. Don't be that person because that's not, that's not what a marriage actually is. We have struggles together, we argue about the kids, we argue about how much money someone's spending, we argue about whether we should redecorate the house, we argue about...

ANT: Why?

BRUCE: What, huh?

ANT: Keep going.

BRUCE: Haha. We argue about a...you know, we argue about all of this stuff and yet at the same time, we find incredible joy with each other when we're doing you know, watching movies, we go out to dinner every once in a while, we have our date night, that's once a week now, if that. We have date night once a week, when it's not hockey season because my son, he plays a, my son and my daughter play hockey. So, but they, they have the games on date night and then, so we can't have our date nights. So anyway, I'm just saying all this to say if you don't, if you don't redefine what happiness is and what marriage is, then you're a, you, like I said, you think that it's supposed to be these big epiphany moments of all the time. That's so not what marriage is.

ANT: Right. One of the biggest things I always, when I'm teaching family marriage, is say "the wedding is not the marriage and you have to separate the idea of marriage, which comes from the wedding, and the bliss, and the joy, and the Disney movies that we watch with, the actual marriage" and as a Christian, one of the things that I tell all other Christians is the LGBT community, they got it right when they introduced the language of partner.

BRUCE: Yes, absolutely.

ANT: And to me, that's one of the most powerful things I can say is "recognizing that this is my 'partner'", I'm here to help her

accomplish her goals, her dreams, her aspirations, her daily tasks.

BRUCE: Yeah.

ANT: She's here to help me accomplish my goals, my... my aspirations, my daily tasks, and it really is a partnership and I think Bruce you said it right "as we go through changes we have to sort of find who they are again, as they find out who we are again".

BRUCE: Absolutely.

ANT: And, one...this is, this is very kind of Notebook-esque.

BRUCE: Yeah, well...

ANT: But this part is, you have to fall in love with your partner, over, and over, and over again.

BRUCE: You do, you do.

ANT: Sometimes you look at your partner and be like "I don't, I don't know you. Wait, when did you become that? Uhhh, uhhh" and do those things so...

BRUCE: Straight up, my wife needs to remind herself on like a monthly basis that I'm dr. Bruce Hoskins now because, when we met, I was not Dr. Bruce Hoskins. I was frying chicken at Popeye's. Yeah, that's who I was.

ANT: He fried chicken at Popeye's. True.

BRUCE: I was frying chicken at Popeye's, that's where she met me and so every once in a while when I talk about race and ethnicity, she's like "who, how do you know that?". It's like "I did my research, this is who I am".

ANT: Yeah.

BRUCE: You change and you fall in love all over again that's true.

Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis

Spelling Father by Marshal Davis-Jones

Last night I had the most interesting dream In it I was 6 years old at a national spelling bee Genius complex words like serendipity Duodenum Floccinaucinihilipilification all spelling them right up to the Last round one word that's giving me a victory The spell master clears his throat young man Your word is father, the crowd began to chatter Among themselves all Upset at the simplicity Of this final word, I look at the masters eyes His eyes saying everything's going to be okay If you do it and I realized I dazed off, young Man your word is father I stood up straight Licked my lips, and began, Father, M-O-T-H-E-R Father spell master looks at me, looks at his flash Card he says I'm sorry, but you're incorrect. Wait wait; see I don't think he understands, See my father is sitting right in the audience. "Excuse me?" I'm sorry son, you're incorrect Well you sir can save your sorry apologies because You

must mean incorrect as in within the parameters Of being right let
me explain something to you obviously you Aint grown up where
pops were rollin stones down the hills Of women's backsides and
when he comes, all he left us was alone Where menstrual men
stroll around on bikes and fathers balanced Their Menstrual 2
jobs 2 kids and life on a unicycle and it looked something like
This, breastfeeding with one arm, phone on the shoulder, cooking
with the Other arm and cleaning with one leg and tying sneakers
with their teeth Young fathers who make mistakes because they
are not all perfect but the One mistake they'd never make is
abandoning their seed you see fathers Are master gardeners they
tend to every leaf removing the weeds placing Us in the windows
of opportunity so we can lean towards the sun so we can never
Forget that the sky is the limit planting kisses on our cheeks, hugs
on our backs Growing their love on us the best way they know
how, like my father, my father Lived a deadly nightmare so I can
live my dreams, my father awarded me in blood sweat and tears,
in hopes that'd I'd be ripe for the harvest, and I hope that I'll be
as great as a father As she was for me you did not ask me to spell
dead beat sir but if you'd like dead beat Here it is F-A-T-H-E-R D-
A-D D-A-D-D-Y P-O-P P-O-P-S if you'd like the slang, you asked
me To spell father and where I am from in my life father is and has
been and always will be spelled M-O-T-H-E-R so open your
encyclopedias show me your flashcards, open your dictionaries
Cause what Webster says, means nothing around here, around
here my father is sitting right there, and I love her.

Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis

Marriage by Rudy Francisco

I was told the average girl begins to plan her wedding at the age
of seven. I was told she picks the colors and the cake first. By the
age of ten, she knows the time and the location. By seventeen,
she's already chosen a gown and a maid of honor by twenty
three. She's waiting for a man who doesn't break out in hives
when he hears the world commitment. Someone who doesn't
smell like a band aid drenched in lonely. Someone who is more
than a temporarily solution to the empty side of the bed.
Someone who will hold her hand like it's the only one he's ever
seen. To be honest, I don't know what tux I'll be wearing. I have
no idea what my wedding will look like. But I imagine.. I imagine
the woman who pins my last name to hers will butterfly down the
aisle like a five foot promise. I imagine that her smile will be so big
that you will see it on Google maps and know exactly where our
wedding is being held. The woman that I plan to marry will
have champagne in her walk and I will get drunk on her footsteps.
When the pastor asks me if I take this woman to be my wife I will
say yes before he even finishes the sentence. I will apologize to
him later for being impolite but I will also explain to him that our
first kiss happened six years ago and I've been practicing my yes
for the past 2,165 days and when people ask me about my
wedding I never know what to say but when people ask me about
my future wife.. I always tell them that her eyes are the only

Christmas lights that deserve to be seen all year long. I tell them that she thinks too much, she misses her father, she loves to laugh, and she's terrible at lying because her face never figured out how to do it correctly. I tell them that if my alarm clock sounded like her voice my snooze button would collect dust. I tell them that if she came in a bottle, I would drink her until my vision is blurry and my friends take away my keys. I tell them that if she was a book, I would memorize her table of contents. I would read her cover to cover hoping to find typos just so we can both have something to work on. Because aren't we all unfinished? Don't we all need editing? Aren't we all waiting to be read by someone praying that will tell us that we make sense? She don't always make sense. But her imperfections are the things I love about her the most. To be honest, I don't know when I will be married. I don't know where I will be married. But I do know this.. whenever I'm asked about my future wife, I explain her as the best I can. She always sounds a lot like you.

Movie 1.8 Poetry in Praxis

Love Type Love by Shihan

I want a love like Me thinking of you Thinking of me thinking of you type love Or me telling my friends more than I've ever admitted to myself About how I feel about you type love Or hating how jealous you are But loving how much you want me all to yourself type love Or see how your first name just sound so good next to my last name And shit I wanted to see how far I could get

without calling you And I barely made it out of my garage See, I want a love that makes me wait until she falls asleep And wonder if she's dreaming about us being in love type love Or who loves the other more Or what she's doing this exact moment Or slow dancing in the middle of our apartment to the music of our hearts Closing my eyes and imagining how a love so good Could hurt so much when she's not there And shit I love not knowing where this love is headed type love And check this, I want to place those little post-it notes All around the how she, she never forgets how much I love her type love And not have enough ink in my pen to write all there is to love about her type love And hope I make her feel as good as she makes me feel And I want to deal with my friends making fun of me The way I made fun of them when they went through the same kind of love type love Only difference is, this is one of those real love type loves And just like in high school I want to spend hours on the phone not saying shit And then fall asleep and then wake up with her right next to me And smell her all up in my covers type love I want to try counting the ways I love her And lose count in the middle just so I have to start all over again And I want to celebrate one of those one month anniversaries Even though they ain't really anniversaries But doing it just 'cause it make her happy type love And, check this, I want to fall in love with the melody the phone plays When none of us dialed into it type love And talk to you until I lose my breathe She leaves me breathless But with the expanding of my lungs I inhale all of her back into me I want a love that makes me need to change my cell phone calling plan To something allows me to talk

to her longer 'cause in all honesty, I want to avoid one of them
high cell phone bill type loves And I want a love that makes me
regret how small my hands are I mean the lines on my palms
don't give me enough time To love you as long as I'd like to type
love And I want a love that makes me st-st-st-st-stutter Just
thinking about how strong this love is type love And I want a love
that makes me want to cut off all my hair Well, maybe not all of
the hair Maybe like I cut the split ends and trim my moustache
But it would still be a symbol of how strong my love for her And
check this, I kind of feel comfortable now So I even be fantasizing
about walking out on a green light Just dying to get hit by a car
Just so I could lose my memory Get transported to some third
world country just to get treated Then somehow meet up again
with you so I can fall in love with you In a different language and
see if it still feels the same type love I want a love that's as
unexplainable as she is But I'm married, so she's gonna be the
one I share this love with.