Definition of a Family

Two Types of Households

1. Family household
2. Non-Family household

For purposes of this class, a family is defined as a group of two or more people:

1. Residing in one household
2. Related by birth, marriage, adoption or voluntary association
3. Having long term commitments to the relationship, health, security and welfare of one another
Definition of a Family
(addendum)

A family should provide the physical, material, psychological, emotional, and social resources to its members to strengthen and enrich their lives and enable them to grow.
American Family Types

1. **Married Straight Partners with children--AKA Traditional or Nuclear Family:** A man and a woman married to each other—their first marriage for each one and they have one or more biological children. (If the partners do not have children, they are in family type #3 below).

2. **Married Gay Partners with Children**

3. **Married Straight Partners without Children:** Married partners who do not have children.

4. **Unmarried Partners (Gay or Straight) with Children**

5. **Unmarried Partners (Gay or Straight) without Children**

6. **Single Parent:** A single adult (never married, divorced or widowed) living with one or more of his/her children.
7. **Remarried:** (sometimes called a “step” family): Either one or both of the adult partners were formerly married, then lost a spouse through divorce or death. One or both of the adults may bring one or more children from a former marriage into the remarriage.

8. **Adoptive:** A family in which a single adult or two partnered adults have at least one child by adoption.

9. **Grandparents raising Grandchildren:** Grandparents living with, raising and sometimes adopting grandchildren because the parents of the child(ren) are not available to do so.

10. **Multi-Generational/Extended Family:** Three related generations living in one household.

11. **Multi-Racial:** The partners in a marriage may be of different races/ethnicities and consequently may have biological or adopted children whose racial identity is “mixed”.

12. **Multi-Family:** Two or more families of any type that live together in one household.
American Family Types
(Continued)

13 Unmarried and Unpartnered Adults with Children:

14 Unmarried and Unpartnered Adults without Children:

15 **Foster Families:** Adults are approved by the state to provide a home and care for children whose parents are not available to perform the parenting function. This may be temporary or permanent.

16 **Empty Nest:** A married or unmarried couple whose children are grown and living separately.

17 **Empty Nest Refilled/Boomerang Children:** Adult children return home to live with parents after living separately for some time (‘boomerang children’).
18. **Friends as “Family”**: Often, Americans of all walks of life, will cite friends as their “family” or at least a very important part of their “family”, even though they live in different households.

19. **Family Members Living in Separate Households.** About 1/3 of all households are occupied by a single individual. Although he/she is the only person in the household, many if not most of them would feel that they are still part of their original or extended families to which they are related by marriage, birth or adoption; or, as in # 18, single persons living alone may cite many of their close friends as part of their family.
Family Diversity—Different Dimensions

- Household Type or Living arrangements
- Ethnicity/Religion
- Culture
- Immigrant to or Native Born in USA
- Values
- Roles, Functions and Expectations of family members
- Socioeconomic Class
- Genetics
- Country of Origin of Adults
- Language
- Profession/Occupation of Adults
- Education
- Neighborhood
A Pause for Reflection

“All happy families are like one another. Each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way” .......Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

- Into what type of family were you born or adopted?
- Did your family type change because of the death or divorce of a parent, or adoption of a sibling?
- If you started a family, did that family type change?
In 2016, 48 percent of women between age 15 and 44 had never had children, up from 47 percent in 2012.

Of the 11 million single parent families with children under age 18, 77% are single mothers (8.5 million).

The majority (69%) of America’s 73.7 million children under age 18 live in families with two parents—down from 88% in 1960.
Family Facts

- The median age when adults first marry continues to rise. In 2016, it was age 30 for men and 27 for women, up from ages 24 and 21, respectively, in 1947.

- In 2016, almost one third of all adults (32 percent) had never been married, up from about one quarter (23 percent) in 1950.

- Married couples make up 68 percent of all families with children under age 18, down from 93 percent in 1950.

- About 62 percent of children have a mother who works outside the home, slightly less than those with a father who works outside the home (66 percent).
Then and Now

- Households consisting of a married heterosexual couple and their biological children
  
  **Then** 1970: 40%  **Now** 2018: 19%

- Adults who are married
  
  **Then** 1960: 72%  **Now** 2018: 50%

- Births to Unmarried Women
  
  **Then** 1960: 5%  **Now** 2016: 40%

- Americans living in multigenerational households
  
  **Then** 1980: 12%  **Now** 2016: 20%
Almost 14 million older adults live alone, representing 29 percent of all adults age 65 or older.

Householders age 65 or older outnumber those under age 30 by almost two to one (31 million versus 15.8 million).

More older adults live with their spouse today than in 1967. Among those age 75 or older, 67 percent of men and 33 percent of women lived with a spouse in 2016, up from 59 percent and 21 percent, respectively, in 1967.
Half of all marriages are ending in divorce, which means that half of all marriages are more or less, working.

Although it is less than 20 per cent of American families, the traditional family type remains the ideal, or the norm, to which most couples strive.
The 1960 census revealed that children (people under 18) were 41% of all Americans. The 2018 Census Bureau estimate for the percentage of children in the U.S. is 24%.

Breakdown of US Population by age range—1960-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-18</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 19-25</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 26-34</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 35-54</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 55-64</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More than a third (41%) of all children are born out of wedlock. Of those, about a third were born to a teenage mother.

Unmarried, cohabiting couples are on the rise.

One out of every 5 children in America lives in poverty;

The rate is twice as high for African Americans and Hispanics.
Today, parenting extends into the child’s 20’s and beyond.

It is estimated that raising a child to the age 18 costs about $250,000. Add the cost of 4 more years, including college and graduate school and the cost is over $500,000.
Falling Marriage Rates Reveal Economic Fault Lines

2018—50.5%
The Health and Socioeconomic Benefits Of Marriage In Adult Partnerships

The health benefits are so significant; in fact, one sociologist described them as being as "large as the benefit from giving up smoking." The current body of research consistently finds married men and women are:

- More likely to live longer
- More likely to be physically healthier
- More likely to be mentally healthier
- More likely to be happier
- Recover from illness quicker and more successfully
- Generally, take better care of themselves and avoid risky behavior
- More likely to be financially better off and more secure

(Break)
The Traditional Family
Did your family of origin look like this?
The Traditional American Family
21st Century Modern Family
Diversity in the American Family
Grandparents raising Grandchildren
Single Parent Family
Remarried Family (aka “Step” Family)
Remarried Family
Sometimes children in a remarried family can have 4 sets of “grandparents”
“It’s Complicated” Family
Adoptive Family
The Gay Adoptive Family
1950’s Highlights

- Korean War from 1950 to 1953
- The Cold War: Communism vs. Western Democracies
- The birth of Rock and Roll
- Fear of a nuclear bomb attack
- Segregation ruled illegal in the USA
- Civil Rights Movement gains momentum.
- Televisions become best sellers in American homes.
- Jonas Salk discovers polio vaccine which is made available to children and adults in the USA and around the world.
1950’s: Television portrayed the Perfect American Family
1960’s Highlights

- Election of John F. Kennedy as President of the U.S.A.
- Civil rights march on Washington
- Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy.
- Vietnam War Accelerates
- Anti-War Movement
- Civil Rights Movements by African Americans, Latino Americans and Native Americans.
- Gender roles and functions become more fluid and flexible
- Betty Friedan writes and publishes *The Feminine Mystique*. This becomes a manifesto of the feminist movement.
- U.S.A. lands men on the moon
1970’s Highlights

- Environmental protection movements develop
- Gay and lesbian rights movement strengthens
- New forms of marital/couple unions and family types
- Roe vs Wade Legalizes Abortion in the U.S.
- First Test-Tube Baby Born
- Vietnam War Ends
- Explosion in self-help books appear in bookstores and American bookshelves
1970’s Highlights

- Economic “boom and bust” cycles.
- A growing number of husbands/fathers could not support a family on one salary.
- In two parent families, “dual careers” become a necessity. Women enter the job market in unprecedented numbers and “juggling act” becomes a fact of family life. These changes present tensions and the divorce rate rises.
- The feminist movement grows and exerts influence on families.
- Women start to remove barriers to advancement and salary equity through court action and concerted pressure on businesses and institutions.
- We see new forms of marital/couple unions and family types.
2018: Today television portrays different types of family
A Pause for Reflection

What do you think have been the advantages and benefits of family diversity for American society?

What do you think have been the challenges of family diversity for American society?

For immigrant families, finding a “happy medium” between accculturation and preserving their culture of origin is an ongoing challenge.
The Changing American Family
Preview of Session II

Megatrends: Impact on the American Family

The 1970’s as a Turning Point Decade
1. Civil Rights
2. Feminism/Women’s Rights
3. Gay & Lesbian Rights
4. Americans with Disabilities
5. Economic Booms and Busts
6. Immigration
7. Evolving Values and Attitudes
8. Aging/Longevity
9. High Technology: smart phones, internet, and social media
Megatrends and the Family

How did the major political, social, economic and cultural developments of the latter half of the 20th Century and early part of the 21st Century affect American families?
Civil Rights Movement
Feminism and Women’s Rights
Gay and Lesbian Rights
Americans with Disabilities
Genuine Equality

Equal Rights

Equal Opportunities

Equal Access

Equal Protection

Equal Treatment
Economic Booms and Busts
Evolving Attitudes and Values

Break
Aging and Longevity
Schedule Flexibility: flextime, part-time, job sharing, compressed workweeks - these are all ways to ease the schedule conflicts that parents face.

Telecommuting: whether it's an everyday arrangement, available on an as-needed basis, or somewhere in between, many employers see telecommuting as a way to provide another form of flexibility to workers.

Child-care Programs: companies are setting up on-site or off-site daycare, after-school and summer programs, as well as sick and emergency child care programs that allow parents to have one less thing to worry about in their day.

Maternity/Paternity Leave Policy: the standard 6 weeks is being stretched out to accommodate parents who want to be home with their infants, and companies are extending the benefit to dads too.

Wellness Programs: it's no mystery that a happy, healthy employee is much more productive than a stressed-out, sick one.
Future Trends in American Families
Continuing Diversity

- Divorce rate will continue at between 45 - 50%
- Continuing diversity in American families
- Single parent families
- Partnered but unmarried couples with or without children
- Remarried families
- Multi-cultural and multi-ethnic families
- Three generational family households
- Multi-family households
Gay and Lesbian households

Weakening of the influence of traditional religious values regarding gender roles, sexuality, gay marriage, abortion and the family

There will continue to be more fluidity and interchangeability in male & female roles both within the family and in society in general.

Entrance and growing influence of ethnic minorities and women into social and economic mainstreams.

The Politics of Family Diversity
Future Trends in American Families (continued-High Tech)

- Online Information Revolution
- Online Social networks/facebook/twitter
- Online Employment networks-Linkedin
- Online Matching and Dating Services
- Diverse Uses of the Internet
- Smart Phone and Mobil Applications
- Online Shopping and Marketing
  - The Global Economy
  - Outsourcing Jobs
  - The Great Recession
  - Baby Boomers (Born 1946-1964) Begin to Retire
Manifesto for Strong Families

According to our class definition of a family, a family:

1. Resides in one household

2. Is related by birth, marriage, adoption or voluntary association

3. Has long term commitments to the health, security and general well-being of one another

Ideally, a family provides the physical, economic, psychological, emotional, and social resources to its members to secure, strengthen and enrich their lives.

Based on your life experience, what advice would you give adults who want to create a strong and successful family? What qualities and activities will characterize this kind of family?