

Chapter 15: *The family*

- How can we understand the family?
 - How does family systems theory conceptualize family? How does the complexity of a family system change from a nuclear family to an extended family household?
 - How does the family system relate to other systems?
 - How does the family system change over time: for example, in the family life cycle?
 - How has the family system changed in historical terms? Is the range of family systems more or less diverse than in the past?
- How do family systems affect infants?
 - How are mother-infant and father-infant relationships different from, and similar to, each other, in terms of quantity and quality?
 - Why do indirect effects make it important to view the family as a three-person system?
- How do family systems affect children?
 - How are the styles of authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and neglectful parenting defined by the dimensions of acceptance/responsiveness and demandingness/control? What outcomes are associated with each parenting style? How do social class and economic status affect parenting?
 - How do the parent effects model and child effects model differ? How does the transactional model integrate the two models?
 - What cultural and ethnic variation is observable in parenting practices?
 - What role do sibling relationships play in the affect of families on children?
 - How does the arrival of a new baby affect other children?
 - What leads to ambivalence in sibling relationships, expressed for instance in sibling rivalry?
 - What do siblings contribute to the development of a child?
- How do family systems affect adolescents?
 - How much continuity exists in the parent-child relationship?
 - How does the quest to achieve autonomy lead to renegotiation of the parent-child relationship?
- How do family systems affect adults?
 - What factors influence trends within marital relationships (including divorces)?
 - How does the onset of parenthood affect spouses and the marital relationship?
 - What changes are exhibited in child-rearing families?
 - How does the empty nest affect most adults?
 - What roles do different types of grandparents--remote, companionate, and involved--play in the life of the family?
 - How do family relationships change over time?
 - How does satisfaction tend to change throughout marriage?
 - How do relationships between siblings change, and remain the same, through adulthood?
 - How do parent-child relationships change, and remain the same, through adulthood?
 - Why are many families in the U.S. modified extended households? Do aging families experience role reversal?
 - How does middle generation squeeze arise from parents' need for care? Which adult children are most likely to experience caregiver burden?
- What are some of the diverse forms of family life?
 - What is cohabitation among singles, and how is it related to later marital relationships?
 - What are some typical advantages and disadvantages to living in a childless married couple?
 - What are some spillover effects--negative and positive--within dual-career families? What factors lead to potential problems for latchkey children?
 - How are gay and lesbian families similar to families with heterosexual parents?

- What are some reasons for, and consequences of, divorce?
 - What factors typically precede divorce?
 - What family processes occur after divorce? What factors influence whether reorganization after divorce lead to psychological and behavioral problems?
 - What are some characteristics of "good" and "bad" divorces?
 - How do families adjust to remarriage and reconstitution?