Chapter Sixteen: The Family

Key Terms and Concepts

Absent Fathers  Latino
African American Family  Love and Courtship
Battering  Marital Rape
Blended Family  Marital Satisfaction
Child Abuse  Marriage
Children of Divorce  Mate Selection
Cohabitation  Matriarchy
Day Care  Nuclear Family
Divorce  Patriarchy
Divorce and Remarriage  Polygamy
Elder Care  Polygyny
Extended Family  Remarriage
Family  Sandwich Generation
Family and Marriage  Single Mothers
Family Violence  Successful Marriage
Gender and Power  Unmarried Mothers
Incest  Widowers
Inheritance  Widows

Preview of Featured Articles

Key Term or Concept: Divorce

Article and Synopsis: “Who Wants Divorce?: Marriage Values and Divorce in Malta and Western Europe” by Anthony M. Abela
The article investigates the significance of a Catholic family culture for the upkeep of traditional marriage values and a restrictive morality of divorce in Malta and Western European countries. It examines the increase in marriage failure, the opposition of Catholics against divorce legislation, and compares marriage values.

**Key Term or Concept: Family and Marriage**

**Article and Synopsis:** “Marital Happiness, Marital Duration, and the U-Shaped Curve: Evidence from a Five-Wave Panel Study” by Jody Van Laningham, David R. Johnson, and Paul Amato

Previous research suggests a U-shaped pattern of marital happiness over the life course, with happiness declining in the early years of marriage and rising in later years. The study cited in this article uses a 17-year, five-wave panel sample. The data in this 17-year study contradicts the U-shaped hypothesis, suggesting no support for an upturn in marital happiness in later years.

**Key Term or Concept: Family and Marriage**

**Article and Synopsis:** “Have Changes in Gender Relations Affected Marital Quality?” by Stacy J. Rogers and Paul R. Amato

National data from two samples reflecting different marriage cohorts were used to examine the long-term changes in gender relations within marriage. Long-term changes in marital quality were also examined as well as the association between gender relations and marital quality.

**Key Term or Concept: Cohabitation**

**Article and Synopsis:** “Unmarried Cohabitation and Family Policy in Norway” by John Eriksen

This article examines the tradition of unmarried cohabitation and family policy in Norway. It provides an explanation for the preference of people to cohabitation over marriage, the significance of the family policy, and of the impact of the social value dimensions upon marriage and cohabitation choice.

**Selected Articles from Content Select**


Borg, Carmel. 2001. “From ‘Adjuncts’ to ‘Subjects’: Parental Involvement in a Working-


Rankin, Bruce H. and James M. Quane. 2000. “Neighborhood Poverty and the Social
Isolation of Inner City African American Families.” *Social Forces* 79: pp. 139-165.

