

Glossary

- Abortifacient:** A substance or device that causes abortion.
- Abortion ratio:** Number of abortions for every 1000 known pregnancies.
- Abortion:** Termination of a pregnancy before the fetus can survive outside the uterus. **Spontaneous abortions** occur naturally and unintentionally; **induced abortions** are done intentionally.
- Abstinence:** The practice of refraining from indulging some appetite such as food, drink, or a particular sexual practice.
- Acculturation:** Process by which immigrant groups assimilate into a dominant or host culture and change their values, language and practices (Silverstein, 2000).
- Achieved status:** A social position that results from a person's own life events.
- Acquaintance rape:** Non-consensual sexual intercourse imposed by a person known by the victim.
- Adjustment:** The act or means of adapting, corresponding, or conforming.
- Adoption:** Taking into one's own family and raising as one's own child.
- Advocacy research:** Study done for the primary purpose of advancing a particular political cause or point of view.
- Agape** (ah-GAH-pay): Love style characterized by nurturing concern and self-sacrifice.
- Ageism:** Discrimination or prejudice based on age, especially against the elderly.
- AIDS** (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome): Fatal condition in which the body loses its natural ability to protect itself from disease.
- Alimony:** Support paid to a spouse by the former spouse after divorce or separation.
- analysis of existing statistics:** Use of previously completed analysis as the raw data in an original study. This differs from secondary analysis of data, where someone else's raw data is used for a new analysis.
- Androcentric:** With men at the center of interest.
- Androgyny:** A social condition in which there is no gender role differentiation.
- Anecdote:** A short account of an interesting or humorous event; the **anecdotal method** is the attempt to prove a point by telling a story..
- Animism:** The belief that spirits can reside in all aspects of nature (Latin *anima*, soul).
- Annulment:** Official declaration that a supposed marriage was never valid.
- Arranged marriage:** Mate selection by someone other than the potential mates.
- Artificial Insemination:** Placing semen in the vagina or uterus by means other than sexual intercourse.
- Ascribed status:** A social position that is assigned to the individual at birth or other life stage, based on criteria over which the individual has no control.
- Ascription:** Assignment to a position because of characteristics, such as race, sex, or family ancestry, over which the individual has no control.
- Assortive Mating:** The phenomenon that persons marry others like themselves more often than would be expected by chance.
- Authority:** Power exercised in socially approved ways; legitimate power.
- Authority:** The socially granted right to control and influence others.
- Bachelor:** An unmarried man.
- Banns:** A proclamation that a marriage was agreed to and would occur.
- Berdache:** "A person, usually male, who was anatomically normal but assumed the dress, occupations, and behavior of the other sex to effect a change in gender status" (Callender and Kochems, 1993:367).
- Bereavement:** The condition of being deprived of a loved one by death.
- Bias:** A perception or process that results in systematic misrepresentation of reality.
- Bilateral:** Tracing descent and inheritance through both male and female lines.
- Boundary ambiguity:** Uncertainty about who is considered part of a particular family system, or what roles the members should play.
- Bourgeoisie:** The social class that, in Marxist theory, controls the means of production and uses capital, natural resources, and exploited labor to make profits.
- Braceros:** Workers who are expected to return to Mexico after a temporary period of employment
- Bracketed scene:** An interaction set apart from other day-to-day behavior by a definable beginning and end, during which particular roles and scripts apply.
- Bundling:** A courting custom by which a couple would spend an evening together in bed, but fully clothed, separated by a "bundling board" or other material.

- Calling:** In Protestant theology, an occupation to which one could be "called" by God.
- Capitalism:** An economic system in which production and distribution are controlled by private individuals or groups and guided by the profit motive.
- Career:** A long-term professional or occupational path with commitment and opportunities for promotion, advancement, and change.
- Charavari:** "A noisy public demonstration to subject wayward individuals to humiliation in the eyes of the community" (Shorter, 1975:218).
- Chicanos:** Alternative name for Mexican-Americans. A contraction of *Mexicanos*, pronounced "meschicanos" in Nahuatl, an ancient language of Mexico (Eshleman, 1994).
- Child abuse:** Action by a parent or parent surrogate that should not have been done because of potential harm to the child.
- Child neglect:** Failure of a parent or parent surrogate to do something they should have done for their child.
- Chivalry:** Medieval norms of knighthood, including bravery, courtesy, honor, and gallantry toward women.
- Claimsmaker:** Person who puts forth a particular view of reality in support of, or in response to, a social movement.
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- Clan:** A group of kin who believe themselves related to a common, sometimes mythological, ancestor.
- Closed mobility system:** A ideal-typical system of social stratification in which there is no mobility; all status is by ascription.
- Cohabiting:** Living together, especially as an intimate couple in a marriage-like relationship.
- Coitus interruptus:** Practice of attempting to prevent contraception in which the penis is withdrawn from the vagina prior to ejaculation.
- Comarital sex:** Extramarital sex in which the married couple participates together.
- Common-Law Marriage:** A union legally recognized as a marriage in spite of not having been solemnized by the state.
- Commuter marriages:** Dual-career marriages in which husband and wife live separately.
- Compadrazgo:** A traditional Mexican custom of co-parenthood that developed from God-parenthood.
- Complementary scripts:** A role relationship where actors assume different roles, but those roles mesh with and support each other.
- Concordia:** A state of harmony and lack of disagreement between Roman husband and wife.
- Concubine:** A women who cohabits with a man; a live-in mistress.
- Conjugal power:** The ability of spouses to affect each other's behavior.
- Conjugal unit:** The husband-wife pair.
- Content Analysis:** The study of recorded human communications, such as book, web sites, paintings, and laws (Babbie, 2001).
- Contingency:** To Skinner, a change in the environment that affects the behavior preceding it.
- Continuum:** Unbroken degrees of measurement between two extremes.
- Contraception:** Intentional prevention of impregnation.
- Controlled Experiment:** A form of data gathering in which variables are controlled and manipulated by the researcher.
- Coping:** Management of stressors without detrimental effects to the family system.
- Courtly love:** A code of romantic behavior idealized among the aristocracy of medieval Europe.
- Courtship:** Socially scripted process by which potentially sexual pairs interact to form relationships that can result in marriage.
- Couvade:** Practice in which the husband of a woman in labor takes to his bed as though he were bearing the child.
- Coverture:** The doctrine that a man and woman became one flesh at marriages, with the consequence that a wife's property rights are controlled by her husband.
- Crisis:** The period of disorganization resulting from a stressor that ordinary coping mechanism have trouble dealing with.
- Cross cousins:** one's mother's brother's or father's sister's children.
- Cross-sectional studies:** Studies bases on observations representing a single point in time.
- Crude divorce rate:** number of divorces per year per 1000 persons in the population.
- Cuckold:** A man whose wife has extramarital coitus.
- Cultural Capital:** The general cultural background, knowledge, disposition, and skills that are passed from one generation to the next.
- Cultural survival:** a culture trait that has survived after its original function has disappeared.

- Culture lag:** A time discrepancy between technological change and change in non-material aspects of culture such as law and values.
- Culture traits:** the simplest functional units into which a culture is divided for purposes of analysis (Fairchild, 1970:83).
- Cunnilingus:** Oral stimulation of the clitoris or vulva.
- Date rape:** Non-consensual sexual intercourse when the perpetrator and victim are voluntarily in a close relationship.
- Daughter track:** Role expectation that a daughter will have primary responsibility for familial elder care, in addition to other tasks.
- De-fathering of the Family:** Declining involvement of the "father" role in the typical family unit.
- Democracy:** Government by the people.
- Demography:** The study of the characteristics of populations, including birth rates, death rates, growth, and vital statistics. **Demographics** are characteristics of human populations.
- Desertion:** Legally or culturally unjustified abandonment of a spouse, children, or both.
- Developmental paradigm:** Explanations of social behavior emphasizing stages of life cycles.
- Developmental tasks:** Undertakings or objectives associated with a particular stage in the life of an individual or life cycle of a family.
- Dichotomy:** 1. Divided into two parts. 2. The division of a continuum into two mutually exclusive parts.
- Discipline** (verb): To train by instruction and practice, especially to teach self control to
- Dissolution of marriage:** Divorce.
- Divorce mediation:** a conflict-resolution process in which a third party helps a couple resolve divorce issues.
- Divorce:** An official end of a marriage.
- Donatio:** A payment at marriage from the groom's *familias* to the bride.
- Doubling time:** The number of years it would take a particular population to double in size if it continued to grow at a given rate. Correct doubling time at low rates of growth can be approximated by the formula (69/annual percentage growth rate) = doubling time in years.
- Dramaturgy:** The study of interaction as impression management by an actor for an audience.
- Dysfunction:** Those observed consequences that lessen the adaptation or adjustment of the system (Merton 1957:51).
- Economic determinism:** The theory that the economic base of society determines the general character of social structure and culture.
- Emigration:** Movement *out of* a native country or region.
- Emotion work:** "Efforts to shape and control one's emotions by socially defining them, through conversations or personal reflections on one's feelings" (Collins and Coltrane, A-3).
- Empty nest syndrome:** Role loss after a child has left the home resulting in depression, identity crisis, and lowered well-being. Actually a rare phenomenon.
- Endogamy:** Mate selection from within the group.
- Erogenous zones:** Parts of the body which, when stimulated, can lead to sexual arousal.
- Eros** (AIR-ohs): Love style with intense emotional and sexual attachment, but without possessiveness.
- Ethnicity:** Group distinction based on national origin or distinctive cultural patterns such as religion, language, or region.
- Ethnography:** A type of field research on a specific culture or subculture.
- Eufunction:** A positive impact on society of a trait or institution.
- Eugenics:** The study of hereditary improvement of the human species by controlled selective breeding.
- Exogamy:** Mate selection from outside the group.
- Extended family** A family composed of the nuclear family plus additional relatives, usually a third generation.
- Extramarital Sex:** Sexual intercourse between a married person and someone not his or her spouse; adultery.
- Familia:** Latin word for the group of slaves and servants in the household; came to refer to the household as a whole.
- Familism:** "The belief in a strong sense of family identification and loyalty, mutual assistance among family members, a concern for the perpetuation of the family unit, and the subordination of the interests and personality of individual family members to the interests and welfare of the family group" (Popenoe, 1993: 538).
- Family career:** The entirety of events and stages traversed by a family.
- Family leave:** A leave from employment for family matters, especially birth of a child.
- Family of orientation:** The family unit that includes one's parents and siblings.

- Family of procreation:** The family unit that includes one's spouse and, at least potentially, one's children.
- Family policy:** A definite course or method of action with the intent of influencing forms of family organization, behaviors, and decisions
- Fecundity:** A biological potential of lifetime childbearing.
- Fellatio:** oral stimulation of the penis.
- Feminization of poverty:** The impression that women are increasingly likely to be poor because of the increasing concentration of poverty in female-headed families.
- Fertility Rate:** The total number of children each woman is expected to have over a lifetime.
- Fertility:** Actual number of births to a woman.
- Fictive kin:** Persons treated "as if" they are related.
- Field research:** Gathering data by direct observation in the natural setting.
- Filial Piety:** Central Confucian ideal involving devotion and reverence of a son to his father; extended to other dominant-subordinate relationships.
- Foraging:** Collecting plants and animals for subsistence.
- Formal norms:** Behavioral expectations that are written and enforced by specialized social mechanisms; laws.
- Function:** Consequence of an action or trait.
- Functional definition:** Definition based on how the family serves the participating individuals (**microfunctional**) or how it serves society (**macrofunctional**).
- Functionalism:** A paradigm that focuses on the way various parts of society have consequences that maintain the stability of the whole.
- Game Stage:** To Mead, the third stage of observational development, beginning about age 7 or 8, in which children actually assume roles in interaction with others.
- Gender:** The social fact of being feminine or masculine.
- General abstinence:** The practice of completely avoiding sexual intercourse.
- General marital desirability:** The desirability of a person as a mate based on socially agreed-upon resources.
- Generalized other:** To Mead, the internalized image persons have of the expectations of society as a whole.
- Gens:** Roman clan; group of persons of both **genders** who believe themselves to share a common **genesis** for many **generations**, and who treat each other **gently**.
- Glass ceiling:** An alleged invisible barrier to women's advancement in the workforce.
- Grief:** Deep mental and emotional anguish.
- Group marriage:** A marriage involving more than one husband and more than one wife.
- Gynocentric:** With women at the center of interest.
- Happy:** Characterized by good luck, pleasure, satisfaction, or joy.
- Heterogamy:** Selection of mates from among those with different social characteristics.
- Heterosexism:** Discrimination against homosexuals.
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus):** The virus that causes AIDS.
- Homeostasis:** The tendency of an organism to maintain internal equilibrium by making adjustments to changing conditions.
- Homogamy:** Selection of mates from those with similar social characteristics.
- Homophilia:** Intimate love for a person of the same sex.
- Homophobia:** A strong negative reaction to homosexuals and homosexuality (homosexual plus Greek *phobos*, fear).
- Household:** A living unit; a group of persons sharing living quarters.
- Human capital:** Potential means of production held by an individual that was acquired through formal training, education, or experience.
- Humanistic studies:** Finding ways of improving the human condition.
- Husband exclusion clause:** Part of a rape law that makes it impossible to charge a husband with the rape of his wife.
- Hypergamy:** Marriage in which the woman marries into a higher social level.
- Hypogamy:** Marriage in which the woman marries into a lower social level.
- Hypothesis:** A testable educated guess, usually about the relationship among two or more variables.
- Hysterectomy:** Surgical removal of the uterus.
- Ideal type:** A hypothetical construct used for comparisons.
- Illegitimate power:** Power exercised without the consent of the governed, or in socially unapproved ways, usually by coercion.
- Imitation.** The repetition of an observed behavior.
- Immigration:** Movement *into* a non-native country or region; compare with

- Impression management:** Process in which a person manipulates others' perceptions of himself or herself to achieve a desired outcome.
- In vitro fertilization:** Joining of sperm and egg outside the body.
- Incest taboo:** A rule forbidding marriage or sexual activity among closely related persons.
- Infanticide:** The killing of infants, usually as a population control mechanism.
- Infertility:** Inability to achieve pregnancy or to carry a pregnancy to live birth.
- Influence:** The ability to shape the thinking and behavior of a decision-maker.
- Informal norms:** Behavioral expectations that lack codified, enforceable sanctions.
- Informal separation:** A condition in which married couples maintain separate residences because of problems living together.
- Institution:** 1. a system of norms, values, statuses, and roles that develop around a basic social goal; 2. a regular and traditional way of meeting a society's needs.
- Intrauterine Device (IUD):** An object inserted into the uterus for the purpose of preventing pregnancy.
- Intrinsic marriages:** Marriages with the "why" of maintaining the intimacy of the relationship between husband and wife.
- Issei:** First generation Japanese immigrants to the United States, mostly between 1890 and 1920.
- Joint custody:** The awarding of shared residential or legal custody to both parents after divorce.
- Kin group:** Network of persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- Kinkeeper:** Role that serves to hold family and relationships together by communication and organization.
- Kinship System:** The way in which a society defines the relationships of those who are inter-related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- La Casa:** House, immediate family, household.
- Latent Fertility Regulation:** Cultural practices that affect fertility without conscious intent by individuals.
- Legal separation:** A condition in which a married couple separates, has a legally recognized property and custody settlement, lives apart, but may not remarry.
- Libido:** To Freud, the basic energy, primarily sexual in nature, that provides the driving force of all human behavior.
- Life chances:** The probability a person has of sharing in the economic and cultural goods of a society.
- Life Course:** A developmental perspective that focuses on individuals' lives, in their entirety, in historical and social context.
- Longitudinal study:** A study involving the collection of data at different points in time.
- Looking glass self:** To Cooley, the concept that we come to see ourselves as we think other persons see us.
- Love contract:** Expectations partners in a love appropriate relationship have for each other and themselves.
- Love-appropriate relationship:** An affiliation in which the partners mutually accept the use of the word "love."
- Ludus (LEWD-us):** Love as play and recreation.
- Machismo:** Ideal-typical characteristics of manliness in a highly differentiated Mexican or Mexican-American gender role structure.
- Macrosociology:** The study of the large-scale structures and processes of society.
- Maiden:** An unmarried girl or woman, usually assumed to be virgin.
- Mania (MAY-nee-ah):** Love style with strong emotional intensity, sexual attraction, jealousy, and moodiness.
- Manifest Fertility Regulation:** Practices used by persons with the conscious intent of affecting fertility.
- Marriage** a:(Legalistic definition): The Legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife. (b) A socially sanctioned sexual and economic union between two (or more) members of opposite sexes (occasionally between members of the same sex) (From Howard, Michael C., 1989:454) (c) A socially approved sexual union of some permanence between two or more individuals (Robertson , Ian, 1981:630)
- Marriage Market:** The concept that individuals or their families shop and bargain for mates in a way similar to economic transactions.
- Marriage squeeze:** A demographic condition in which there are considerably more eligible mates for one sex than for another.
- Master status:** A social position that tends to override every other position a person holds (Hughes, 1945).
- Maternal deprivation theory:** The theory, now largely discredited, that a child must have a warm, continuous, exclusive, and virtually full-time emotional involvement with its mother.
- Mating gradient:** Result of a tendency to have more hypergamy than hypogamy in a mate-selection system.
- Matriarchy:** A system in which women have the authority.
- Matrifocal family:** "A family in which the mother-child bond takes precedence over the husband-wife bond and in which the day-to-day problems of family living (especially child care and socialization) are managed by women" (LaRossa, 1984:142).

- Matrilineal:** Tracing descent and inheritance through female lines.
- Matrilocal residence:** A custom that newlyweds are expected to live with the bride's relatives.
- Meritocracy:** Government by persons found to be most capable.
- Mésalliance:** Marriage with a person of lower social position.
- Microsociology:** The study of small-scale social processes like face-to-face interaction.
- Midwife:** A person, usually a woman, who provides specialized care during childbirth.
- Miscegenation laws:** Formal norms against marriage of persons of different races.
- Mixed marriage rate for individuals:** The percent of individuals of a particular group who are married to an individual who is not in the group in question.
- Mixed marriage:** marriage between individuals with characteristics that society generally defines as grounds for homogamy.
- Mixed marriages rate:** The percentage of marriages involving members of a particular group that includes a partner who is not in that group.
- Modeling:** Repetition of an observed set of behavior patterns.
- Modes of Production:** The method by which the majority of a society's members produce or develop the goods needed by the society.
- Modified-Extended Family:** Nuclear family that retains considerable autonomy but maintains emotional and economic ties to other related groups.
- Mommy track:** Career path that would allow more time for families.
- Monogamy:** Marriage with one husband and one wife. Gr. *mono* (one) and *gamy* (marriage)
- Monotheism:** Belief in only one god.
- Moral Entrepreneurs:** People who risk moral capital to produce social change (Howard Becker).
- Mourning:** The socially constructed expectations regarding reactions to death.
- Mutual script:** Expectations developed from interaction between specific actors.
- Myth:** A sacred tale expressing the unobservable realities of religious belief in terms of observable phenomena.
- Neolocal residence:** A custom that newlyweds are expected to live separately from either's family.
- Nisei:** Second generation Japanese-Americans, mostly born between 1910 and 1940.
- Nomadic:** Moving as a group from place to place in search of food, water, or grazing land.
- Norm:** Widespread expectations governing behavior. *Prescriptive norms* determine what *should* be done; *proscriptive norms* determine what *should not* be done.
- Nuclear family:** A two-generation group that includes parents and their children.
- Objectivity:** The assumption that truth resides in the object or phenomenon being studied. **Object:** something perceptible by one or more of the senses. **Objective:** based on observable phenomena.
- Observational learning:** Changes in behavior that result from watching others, without direct rewards or punishments to oneself.
- Open marriage:** Arrangement in which married partners allow each other to have extramarital sexual affairs and other freedoms not commonly associated with marriage.
- Open mobility system:** An ideal-typical system of social stratification in which there is total mobility; all status is by achievement.
- Orderly replacement:** Socialization in which each generation is an essential duplicate of the preceding generation.
- Organismic Analogy:** The view that society is like an individual life form, with parts that work together to carry on the various processes of life.
- Ovariectomy:** Surgical removal of the ovaries.
- Panel study:** A type of longitudinal study in which the same people or other cases are observed at different points in time.
- Parallel cousins:** one's mother's sister's or father's brother's children.
- Parallel scripts:** A role relationship in which actors assume the same, identical, interchangeable roles.
- Pater familias:** the male head of household.
- Patriarchy:** A system in which men have the authority.
- Patrician:** member of the Roman aristocracy; the ruling class from which Senators came.
- Patrilineal:** Tracing descent and inheritance through male lines.
- Patrilocal residence:** A custom that newlyweds are expected to live with the groom's relatives.
- Periodic abstinence:** The practice of attempting to avoid conception by refraining from intercourse at certain times of the woman's menstrual cycle.
- Personal Script:** Expectations learned by socialization and shaped by an individual's unique experiences.
- Person-specific marital desirability:** The desirability of a person as a mate based on another individual's particular

- preferences.
- Play stage:** To Mead, the second stage of observational development, up to about age 7 or 8, characterized by playing at being other persons.
- Polyandry:** A marriage involving one wife and more than one husband
- Polygamy:** Any marriage with more than two partners. Gr *poly* (many) and *gamy* (marriage).
- Polygyny:** A marriage with one husband and more than one wife. Gr *poly* (many) and *gyny* (woman).
- Polytheism:** The belief in many gods.
- Pool of eligibles:** The group of individuals constituting realistic potential mates.
- Population:** A specified set of study units, such as all students attending a certain college.
- Positivism:** Doctrine emphasizing use of the senses, measurement, and science as a basis for knowledge.
- Poverty Threshold:** An annual income amount that separates the poor from the non-poor.
- Power:** The actual ability to exercise one's will over others.
- Power:** The probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his or her own will [despite resistance] (Weber).
- Pragma (PRAG-mah):** Love style emphasizing practical elements in relationships and rationality in partner selection.
- Praxis:** Combining social research and theory with the active attempt to improve society.
- Preparatory stage:** To Mead, the time during which the infant lacks the capacity for extensive language use.
- Prescriptive Mating System:** A set of norms that specify whom a person should marry.
- Prescriptive norms:** Expectations about what *should* be done.
- Presentism:** Seeing and judging the past or future using today's definitions.
- Prestige:** Respect or favorable regard attached to a person because of his or her position in the social system.
- Primary relationship:** Continuing interaction by individuals in more than one role; characterized by personal, direct, and intimate interaction.
- Primogeniture:** The right of the eldest child, especially the eldest son, to inherit all property of the parents.
- Principle of least interest:** Idea that the partner who cares the least about the relationship has the most power.
- Proletariat:** The social class that, in Marxist theory, labors as the instrument of production for the bourgeoisie.
- Pronatalism:** A belief system that encourages childbearing
- Pronuptialism:** A belief system that encourages marriage
- Propinquity:** Nearness; the tendency to select mates from persons who live nearby.
- Proscriptive norms:** Expectations about what *should not* be done.
- Protestants:** Christians who are the theological descendants of Martin Luther, John Calvin, or Ulrich Zwingli. For practical purposes, a member of any Christian denomination that is not Catholic.
- Punishment:** A contingency that decreases the probability that a preceding behavior will recur.
- Qualitative analysis:** Nonnumerical examination and interpretation of observations (Babbie, 1995:G6).
- Quantitative analysis:** Numerical representation and manipulation of observations (Babbie, 1995:G6).
- Race:** A group defined by socially selected physical characteristics.
- Random sample:** Sample in which all units in the population have an equal chance of being selected.
- Referent:** The something else for which a symbol stands.
- Refined divorce rate:** Number of divorces per year per 1000 married women age 15 and older.
- Regular:** Customary, usual, or normal.
- Relationship maintenance behaviors:** Actions taken by participants to preserve ongoing relationships.
- Relinquishment:** A giving up or surrender of something; to give up legal rights to a child.
- Remarriage chains:** connections that link individuals across households through ties of disrupted and new unions (Cherlin, 1996).
- Replication:** A copy or reproduction; repetition of an experiment or procedure using the same process.
- Resilient:** Marked by an ability to recover quickly from misfortune.
- Retirement:** To withdraw from one's paid occupation.
- Reward:** A contingency that increases the probability that a preceding behavior will recur.
- Rite of passage:** A public ceremony in recognition of a change in status.
- Role conflict:** Incompatibility between two or more roles that an individual is expected to play.
- Role consensus:** Agreement between actors about how a role should be played.
- Role model:** A person who provides an image with which an observer identifies and may wish to emulate.
- Role:** Expectations associated with a particular position in the social system.
- Romanticism:** An artistic and intellectual movement originating in Europe in the late 18th century.

- Safe sex:** Use of condoms or other practices that significantly reduce the risk of spreading the AIDS-causing virus. Perhaps better thought of as safer sex.
- Sandwich generation:** An age group with care-taking responsibilities both to their aging parents and their own offspring.
- Sansei:** Third generation Japanese-Americans, mostly born after World War II.
- Satisfaction:** Fulfillment of a desire, need, or appetite; contentment derived from having needs met.
- Scene:** Interpersonal interaction among more than one individual.
- Script:** Expectations governing the interaction of two or more roles.
- Secondary relationship:** Continuing interaction by individuals in only one role; characterized by impersonal interaction for a specific, practical purpose.
- Secularization:** The process by which religious control over social institutions and individual behavior declines.
- Sedentary:** Remaining in one place; not migratory.
- Self:** An individual's sense of identity.
- Self-fulfilling prophecy:** A prediction that comes true because of the effect of the prediction itself.
- Sex ratio:** a demographic calculation of the number of males per 100 females in a given population.
- Sex:** The biological fact of being female or male.
- Sex-arbitrary gender roles:** Expectations that could as easily be the opposite.
- Sex-influenced gender roles:** Expectation influenced, but not fully determined, by secondary sex characteristics and other biological differences of men and women.
- Sex-Irreducible gender roles:** Basic Differences in expectations that define the differences between men and women.
- Sexualization:** The process of learning one's individual sexual script; sexual socialization.
- Shaman:** A person who acts as a medium between the visible world and the invisible world of the spirits.
- Shift work:** Any work schedule in which more than half of an employee's hours are before 8 A.M. or after 4 P.M. (Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Social differentiation:** The division and specialization of social and cultural units such as groups, organizations, and institutions.
- Social exchange paradigm:** Explanations of social behavior based on calculation of resources, costs, and benefits of alternative actions.
- Social movement:** A large number of persons who join together to bring about or resist some social or cultural change.
- Social power:** The probability of controlling or influencing the behavior of other persons, even against resistance.
- Social Reproduction:** The process whereby a society reproduces its system of inequality from one generation to the next.
- Social Stratification:** The hierarchical ranking of individuals on the basis of wealth, power, or prestige.
- Societal script:** Society-wide, macro-social expectations.
- Sociobiology:** A scientific approach that attempts to use biological and evolutionary principles to explain the behavior of all social animals, including human beings.
- Socio-cultural evolution:** The process of social and cultural change in response to the environment, made possible by the accumulation of technical knowledge
- Sociological Imagination:** A way of understanding ourselves through locating our positions in society, and the social forces that affect us (Popenoe, 1986:584).
- Spermicide:** An agent that kills sperm, especially as a contraceptive.
- Spinster:** A woman who remains unmarried beyond the typical marriage age.
- Spontaneous consensus:** Agreement arrived at without consideration by the parties involved, based on commonly held assumptions that are often derived from tradition.
- Stable:** Resistant to change, self-restoring, consistently dependable.
- Stages of observation:** To Mead, the developmental socialization process by which children learn from others.
- Status:** A position in the social system.
- Statutory rape:** Having sexual intercourse, even if consensual, with a person not considered old enough to give consent. In some states only female victims are considered; others are gender-neutral (Inciardi, 1993:82).
- Stem family:** A type of extended family comprised of parents plus one, and only one, child who might marry and have children.
- Stepfamily:** Family unit consisting of a married man and woman, plus children from a previous relationship. A *simple stepfamily* includes children of one parent; a *complex stepfamily* includes children from both adults. Also called a *blended family* or a *reconstituted family*.

- Storge** (STOR-gay): Affectionate, companionate style of loving.
- Stressors**: Events with the potential of causing major change in a family system.
- Structural definition**: Definition describing the components and make-up of a family.
- Subjectivity**: The assumption that truth resides in the subject, or person doing the observing.
- Surrogate mother**: Woman who is paid for the use of her uterus to produce a live birth.
- Survey Research**: A way of finding things out by asking a sample of persons a set of questions.
- Symbol**: A thing that stands for something else.
- Symbolic interactionism**: Study of the interaction between persons that takes place through symbols, such as signs, gestures, and language.
- System**: A functionally related group of interacting parts that form a complex whole.
- Technology**: The body of knowledge available to a society that is of use in fashioning implements, practicing arts and skills, and extracting or collecting materials.
- Teleology**: The study of final causes; the belief that events are determined by some ultimate design or purpose.
- Tender Years Rule**: The legal guideline that young children are better off living with their mothers.
- Tender years rule**: the norm that, in divorce, a mother should automatically get custody of minor children unless proven unfit.
- Testable**: Able to be tested (some meanings are just obvious).
- Theory**: A systematic explanation for the observations about related phenomena.
- Totem**: Symbolic representation that links individuals or groups with human ancestors, plants, animals, or other natural phenomena.
- Traditionalizing influence of parenthood**: The tendency of couples to develop more traditional, gender-specific, roles once they have a child.
- Trailing spouse**: Husband or wife of an income-producer who relocates for employment purposes.
- Transfer payments**: Redistribution of something of value from one person or group to another person or group, not based on work the receiver is currently performing.
- Trickle down economics**: The view that increased wealth in the hands of the rich will result in an improved economy that will help the poor.
- Trickle up economics**: The view that directly helping the poor will create a demand for goods and services that will improve the economy.
- Tsu**: The Chinese version of the *gens* or clan.
- Tubal ligation**: "Tying the tubes," surgically cutting and tying the Fallopian tubes to prevent passage of an ovum from the ovary to the uterus.
- Typology**: A systematic classification of related phenomena based on defined characteristics or traits.
- Universal faith**: A belief that there is only one appropriate religion for all people everywhere.
- Universal permanent availability**: a social condition wherein any individual is always a potential mate for anyone else.
- Unmarried couple household**: Two adults, not related and of opposite sex, but no additional adults; and any children present are under 15 years old (U.S. Bureau of the Census).
- Unobtrusive Research**: Gathering data without influencing the thing being studied.
- Urbanization**: An increase in the percentage of a population living in cities.
- Utilitarian marriages**: Marriages with a "why" other than intimate expression; a marriage of convenience for economic or other reasons.
- Value free**: Unaffected by preconceived ideas about what is good, right, and proper.
- Values**: Shared ideas about what is good, right, or proper.
- Variable**: A concept that has more than one attribute.
- Vasectomy**: A surgical procedure designed to make transmission of sperm through the *vas deferens* impossible.
- Victorianism**: A value system emphasizing a strong sense of duty and strict sexual morality; after Queen Victoria of England.
- Widow**: A woman whose husband has died.
- Widower**: A man whose wife has died (This term reflects the fact that, unlike terms applying to other topics, male family terms are typically derived from female terms).
- Yin-yang principle**: Taoist unity of opposites: female-male; dark-light; passive-active; moon-sun.