

# THE Family

TENTH  
EDITION



J. ROSS ESHLEMAN

# *The Family*

T E N T H   E D I T I O N

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# Preface

Several decades have passed since I began work on the first edition of *The Family*. In each edition since, I have tried to produce a textbook that was both readable and interesting to students and stimulating, beneficial, and academically sound to instructors. Feedback from colleagues and students has been helpful in including areas overlooked, in improving areas not adequately covered, in presenting alternative ways of looking at specific topics, and in simplifying complex issues. Although substantive issues such as feminist theory, domestic violence, or same-sex marriages were not part of the agenda at the time of the first edition, today, these and other topics are basic to the discipline. As families change, as new research findings are published, and as theoretical frameworks expand, so do the interests and needs of students. I have tried to be sensitive to these changes.

What should an introductory family textbook try to do? First, I believe it should provide a thorough and objective coverage of the basic concepts and ideas in the area of marriages, families, and intimate relationships. The ideas should be presented clearly and intelligibly. The coverage should include specific factual data as well as abstract principles and empirically supported findings, together with hypotheses for testing. Since this introduction will be the only course on the family that many students take, the text should arouse a curiosity toward, and include tools for, an ongoing process of observation, understanding, and analysis of intimate relationships, marital and family systems, and organizations.

Second, and equally important, I believe an introductory family textbook should capture students' interest. The processes and organization of intimate relationships and family behavior should be conveyed to students in a manner that is understanding, readable, and interesting, yet realistic and without sacrificing accuracy. Given this foundation, students should be able to relate personal and familial values and behaviors to differing lifestyles and patterns, both within their own society and in relationship to others. That is, students should be guided to see more clearly their places in the United States and the world.

It is my hope that students and teachers alike will find the ideas presented in *The Family* stimulating and clearly explained. My intent is that the book be readable and interesting to students and that it present an accurate portrayal of intimate relationships and family systems. For instructors, I hope they will find that this text stimulates thought and discussion and, perhaps most important, that they will be able to challenge the thinking of students by expanding their awareness and understanding of self and others.

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## Distinctive Features of the Tenth Edition of *The Family*

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This edition of *The Family* retains a number of elements from previous editions and features some new ones that set it apart from the other texts in the field. All are

designed for specific purposes: to make the text a valuable resource to students and instructors alike and to be as user friendly as possible.

- *Chapter Openers.* Each chapter begins with a case example related to the topic covered. All cases resulted from interviews done by the author and conducted with a person or couple about their actual life experiences. Most of the names used are real, although some have been changed to protect the identity of the persons involved.
- *Questions to Consider.* Following each case example are critical thinking questions referred to as questions to consider. These can be used for discussion and thought both prior to the chapter coverage as well as following the reading and discussion of the chapter.
- *Highlighted Concepts.* Key terms and concepts are highlighted and defined where they first appear. These are useful for catching the attention of the student and for chapter review. An alphabetical listing of key terms appears in the glossary that follows the final chapter.
- *Contemporary Research.* The textual material is focused on the latest research findings available. You will note that most of the references are from the 1990s and 2000s. These references appear on the page on which they are cited. This enables the student to immediately notice the name of the author, the journal or reference source, and the precise date and pages of publication. This stands in contrast to most texts, which have a reference or bibliography listing somewhere at the end of the book.
- *A Balanced Theoretical Approach.* The major theoretical frameworks—functional, conflict, interaction, exchange, development, and feminist—are introduced in the first chapter and applied where appropriate throughout the text. Other theories such as sociobiological, phenomenology, humanist, behaviorism, psychoanalytic, complementary needs, resource, cultural spillover, and so forth are applied to specific issues.
- *Cross-Cultural Perspective Inserts.* Inserts about China and Sweden appear topically in each chapter. For example, the chapter on sexual norms and relationships has data on sexual behavior in China, as well as information on sexual behavior in Sweden. The chapter on divorce and remarriage has separate material on divorce in China and divorce in Sweden. These inserts provide an additional global perspective to that covered in the basic text.
- *Family Diversity Inserts.* The range and variety of family patterns and behaviors are tremendous. One feature on family diversity appears in each chapter. For example, the first chapter on theory applies a phenomenological analysis to female sexuality, the chapter on explaining partner selection examines bundling, and the chapter on African Americans focuses on adoption patterns among blacks.
- *News Item Inserts.* Family activities appear in the news almost daily. Some are brought to national attention, such as the focus on legalizing same-sex marriages (see news item insert in Chapter 2) or the declaration by the Southern Baptist Convention for wives to “submit graciously” to their husbands (see news item insert in Chapter 11).

- *Other Illustrations, Photographs, Charts, and Tables.* The textual material is further illustrated with photographs that make the book more appealing and charts and tables that provide empirical evidence of patterns, trends, and supportive statistical data.
- *Summaries.* Each chapter has a brief summary of the topics covered. These are not intended to be a substitute for reading the chapter but should help students review the material.
- *Key Terms and Topics.* At the end of each chapter, the key terms and topics are listed with accompanying page numbers. This enables the student to review the key concepts and topics and go immediately to their source.
- *Discussion Questions.* Approximately ten questions appear at the end of each chapter. They can be used for classroom discussion, the assignment of brief student projects, or as review questions that focus on the topics within the chapter.
- *Further Readings.* Each chapter ends with an annotated listing of current (and some classic) books and sources that cover topics that have been discussed.
- *Glossary.* Following the last chapter is a glossary of the terms used within the text. This enables the student to review or discover the meaning of a specific term.
- *Name and Subject Index.* As is true with most texts, the end of the book includes an index of every author cited and the subjects covered.

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## Organization of the Tenth Edition of *The Family*

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The text is divided into five parts, each of which follows a sociological and social-psychological approach. Part I deals with understanding marriage and the family irrespective of time or place. Chapter 1 examines approaches to the study of families and establishes six basic frames of reference, or theories, central to understanding intimate relationships, family groups, and systems. Chapter 2 illustrates the boundaries of marital, family, and kinship organization, and Chapter 3 identifies the linkages between the family and other institutions or systems, with a focus on the world of work.

Part II turns more specifically to marriages and families in the United States. Chapter 4 summarizes selected characteristics of U.S. families, changes taking place, and approximately twelve issues faced in U.S. families today. Chapter 5 examines African American families, including significant social transitions and contemporary patterns of family life. Chapter 6 includes a brief overview of Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American family systems. Social status characteristics of each group are presented, with emphasis on the diversity within these groups. Chapter 7 examines social class variations in U.S. families, including an extensive look at the feminization of families in poverty and single parents.

Part III looks at partner selection and intimate relationships including sexual norms and marriage. Chapters 8 and 9 focus on partner selection, with the former focusing on inter- and intramarriages by age, residence, social status, religion, and



race/ethnicity whereas the latter deals with individualistic and sociocultural explanations including the processes of moving from a single to a married status. This ninth chapter ends with an investigation of nonmarital cohabitation: prevalence, how cohabitators are like or different from noncohabitators, stability, and the like. Chapter 10 addresses a wide range of sexual norms and relationships including social dimensions of sexuality—nonmarital, marital, and extramarital sex. High-risk behaviors and AIDS are covered as well.

Part IV considers the life course of family relationships from marriage to parenthood to surviving spouses, old age, and death. Chapter 11 focuses specifically on the marital system, with a look at marriage trends and characteristics, power in conjugal and intimate relationships, and marital quality.

Chapter 12, on the parental system, looks at the transition to and consequences of parenthood, young and unwed parenthood, family size, and related factors. Chapter 13 focuses quite specifically on parent–child interaction and socialization. Contrasting theories explaining the socialization process address gender identity and sex-role socialization. Chapter 14 covers the aging family. This includes marital status and coresidence in the middle years, grandparent status, and family characteristics of later life: problems, retirement, widowhood, and death.

Part V covers family crisis and social policy. Chapter 15 focuses on social stresses on families and more specifically on violence: myths, causes, and the various forms it takes. Chapter 16 looks at divorce and remarriage: rates, trends, variations, grounds, and consequences. The final chapter, Chapter 17, examines family social policy. This includes types of research dealing with, and six issues surrounding, family policy.

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## New to This Edition

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Those familiar with the previous edition will note a reversal of Parts II and III. This provides a more logical flow of topics from an emphasis on U.S. families including African, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and social class to a life course focus on marriage, parenthood and socialization, and the middle and later years.

The goal of this reorganization is to group the chapters in a more systematic fashion. However, most chapters can stand alone and do not have to be followed sequentially. Although I would recommend covering chapters one and two on theory and family organization first, most other chapters can be followed in a sequence that individual instructors prefer.

An extensive amount of material has been updated, and new material has been added. This is especially true of census material and current research findings. U.S. Census data on families in 2000 has been updated extensively. New and more recent research findings have been added to every chapter. This includes new material on family structures, extended kin, the workplace, racial/ethnic families, poverty, intermarriage, hooking up and dating, AIDS, extramarital sex, communication and social supports in marriage, unwed parenthood, abortion, birth order, a biosocial approach to socialization, gay parenthood, grandparenting, violence of children, economic in-

dependence, neighborhood stress, divorce, postmarital adjustment, and family policy, to highlight specific examples.

In addition to chapter reorganization, updated material, and selected new sections, the instructor familiar with the previous editions will notice several changes in the inserts. Some new and updated case examples and questions to consider about the case are included at the beginning of each chapter. Various changes have been made on family diversity and news item inserts.

As in previous editions, selected theories and frames of reference are described and applied throughout the text. Extensive use is made of recent census data and research findings. Each chapter ends with several useful study aids: Summary, Key Terms and Topics, Discussion Questions, and Further Readings. A glossary and name and subject indexes are provided at the end of the book.

A final word about the language used in *The Family*: Efforts have been made in writing and editing this book to follow contemporary style guidelines for language describing people of cultural minority groups. For example, the terms *African American* and *black* are used as synonyms in most cases. The term *white* is used to designate people of Caucasian heritage, and often *non-Hispanic white* is used to differentiate Hispanic and non-Hispanic whites. The general terms *Hispanic American* and *Asian American* are used to identify members of a number of cultural subgroups of Spanish or Asian heritage; more specific terms, such as *Mexican American* or *Japanese American*, are used in discussions of individual subgroups. The term *Native American* is used to describe people native to the North American continent. Generally, when reporting results from a given source, a specific term has been used following the style used in the source. For example, in presenting data from U.S. Census reports, the terms *black*, *white*, *Hispanic*, *Asian*, and *Pacific Islander* are most often used, because those terms are used in the actual reports.

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## Supplements

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Numerous supplemental materials are available to assist the instructor, including items such as

- *Instructors Manual/Test Bank*. For every chapter in the text, this manual includes a list of learning objectives; a summary of key points; and suggested discussion questions, classroom activities, and video resources. It also provides over one thousand test questions in various formats: multiple-choice, true-false, short answer, and essay.
- *TestGen EQ Computerized Test Bank*. The printed test bank is also available for Windows or Macintosh through our computerized testing system, TestGen EQ. The full networkable test generating software is now available on a multiplatform CD-ROM. The user-friendly interface enables instructors to view, edit, and add questions, transfer questions to tests, and print tests in a variety of fonts. Search and sort features allow instructors to locate questions quickly and arrange them in a preferred order.



- *iSearch for Sociology (with ContentSelect)*. This practical reference guide introduces students to the basics of the Internet and the World Wide Web, lists hundreds of URLs for sociologists, and provides guidelines for doing exemplary research and documentation, with examples of APA and MLA citation formats. In addition, it includes a free six-month subscription to ContentSelect. This online research database, searchable by keyword, gives you and your students immediate access to thousands of full-text articles from leading social science journals and other popular publications from any computer with an Internet connection. (Available free upon request with this text. Special package ISBN required from your sales representative.)
- *Allyn & Bacon Marriage and Family Website*. This website includes hundreds of links and online activities for a broad range of topics that are typically covered in sociology of marriage and family courses. In addition, it has a set of practice tests for every chapter in this text to help students prepare for quizzes and exams. ([www.ablongman.com/marriageandfamily](http://www.ablongman.com/marriageandfamily))

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J. Ross Eshleman

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*Understanding Marriage  
and the Family*



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