



INCLUDES
APPENDICES TO
THE MAIN TEXT

Kenrick S. Thompson



STUDY GUIDE *for Lamanna and Riedmann's*

Marriages and Families

Making Choices
in a Diverse Society

EIGHTH EDITION

Study Guide
For
Lamanna And Riedmann's
Marriages and Families
Making Choices in a Diverse Society
Eighth Edition

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Australia • Canada • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States

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PREFACE

This Study Guide accompanies the eighth edition of Lamanna and Riedmann's *Marriages and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society*. I hope that the contents will be useful and helpful.

For each chapter, the following features are included: a chapter summary, a list of learning objectives, a key terms list (with page references), completion questions using the key terms, a list of key theoretical perspectives, Internet and InfoTrac exercises; and a selection of true-false, multiple choice, short essay, and essay questions. Also included at the end of the Study Guide are informative appendices to the main text.

Comments and questions about the contents of this manual will be appreciated:
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CHAPTER 1

FAMILY COMMITMENTS: MAKING CHOICES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter begins by addressing the challenge of defining the term **family**. The family, because of its relatively small size, face-to-face relationships, tendency to involve the whole person, and the intimate relationships between members, is a **primary group**. It is important to be able to define family because so many social resources are distributed based on family membership, on the basis of who is and who is not a member of a family. Several definitions of the family are presented and discussed, including the **nuclear family**, the **modern family**, and the **post-modern family**.

People make choices, and there are various freedoms and pressures involved with choosing. People must make choices and decisions throughout their life courses. Sometimes people are involved in **choosing knowledgeably**, by being actively involved in assessing their options, their preferences. On the other hand, sometimes people simply let things happen to them, enduring with varying levels of success whatever comes their way, in which case they are **choosing by default**. When people choose, their choices and decisions simultaneously are limited by social structure and are causes for change in that structure.

Marriages and families are composed of separate, unique individuals. That uniqueness stems partly from the fact that human beings are able to make choices. They have creativity and free will: Nothing they think or do is totally "programmed". At the same time, all of the individuals in a particular society share some things. They speak the same language and have some common attitudes about work, education, marriages and families.

Our culture values both **individualistic (self-fulfillment) values** and **family values (familism)**. Whether individualism has gone too far and led to an alarming **family decline** is a matter of debate. Even though families fill the important function of providing members a place to belong, finding personal freedom within families is an ongoing, negotiated process. **Families change**, and because they do, marriages and families are not static. Every time one individual in a relationship changes, the relationship itself changes, the result of partners attempting to find ways to alter their relationship to meet their changing needs.

There are four themes that are developed throughout your textbook: 1) Personal decisions must be made throughout the life course; 2) People are influenced by the society around them; 3) We live in a changing society; and 4) Personal decision making feeds back into society and changes it.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Based on your careful and thorough reading of Chapter 1, you should:

1. be aware that there is no “typical” family; understand the difficulties associated with defining the family; and be familiar with the text’s definition of the family.
2. understand the relationship between individual freedom and social pressures in terms of making decisions.
3. appreciate the distinction between choosing *by default* and choosing *knowledgeably*.
4. understand the importance of family values and the philosophies of *familism* and *individualism*.
5. be familiar with the concepts of *boundaries* and the *archival family function*.
6. be able to respond to the question of whether the family is “declining” or whether it is “changing.”
7. be familiar with the four themes that are developed throughout the textbook: 1) Personal decisions must be made throughout the life course; 2) People are influenced by the society around them; 3) We live in a changing society, characterized by increased ethnic, economic, and family diversity; and 4) Personal decision making feeds back into society and changes it.

KEY TERMS (page references in parentheses)

archival family function (18)	✓family values (18)
backstage (18)	households (9)
choosing by default (15)	✓individualistic orientation (19)
✓choosing knowledgeably (16)	✓individualistic [self-fulfillment values] (19)
✓extended family (11)	✓modern family (7)
✓family (12)	✓nuclear family (7)
family “decline” versus family “change” (20)	✓postmodern family (7)
✓familism (18)	✓primary group (5)
	secondary group (5)

COMPLETION (USING KEY TERMS)

1. Charles Horton Cooley coined the term primary group in describing any group in which there is a close, face-to-face relationship.
2. The nuclear family consists of husband, wife, and children in one household.
3. Throughout much of the twentieth century, the *nuclear family* was considered the modern family.

4. Many households containing grandparents are extended family households, which include other relatives besides parents and children.
5. The progressively increasing family diversity that we see today has led some scholars to refer to today's family as the post-modern family.
6. According to the text, family is any sexually expressive or parent-child or other kin relationship in which people who are usually related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption, form an economic unit and care for any young; consider their identity to be significantly attached to the group; and are committed to maintaining that group over time.
7. Unconscious decisions are called choosing by default.
8. The opposite of *choosing by default* is choosing knowledgeably.
9. Family togetherness, stability and loyalty, are examples of family values.
10. familism refers to placing family well-being over individual interests and preferences.
11. Family boundaries create a space in which members can relax and be themselves, and, in Erving Goffman's words, these are backstage.
12. The archival family function refers to families creating, storing, preserving, and passing on particular objects, events, or rituals that members consider relevant to their personal identities and to maintaining the family as a unique experiential reality or group.
13. The text points out that just as family values permeate American society, so also do individualistic (self-fulfillment) values.
14. Individualistic values encourage people to develop an individualistic orientation.
15. David Popenoe has warned that self-interest has led to "family _____" over the past three decades.
16. Some family experts do not believe that the family is in decline, but they concur that family decline vs. family Δ has occurred.

KEY THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Erving Goffman's *dramaturgical analysis* ("backstage" vs. "frontstage" behavior)

INTERNET AND INFOTRAC EXERCISES

Internet Exercises

1. Sociologist Erving Goffman wrote extensively about the process of *impression management*, including his distinction between "frontstage" and "backstage" behavior. Drawn from his book, **The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life** (1959), a description of the process of impression management in Goffman's own words may be found at:

of the process of impression management in Goffman=s own words may be found at: <http://wizard.ucr.edu/~bkaplan/soc/lib/goffmpr.html>. After you have reviewed this material, give three examples of what Goffman refers to as *faux pas* in interactions with others.

2. One of the dominant themes in Chapter 1 is the recognition that the modern family is *diverse*. The concept of the *stepfamily* is one illustration of how contemporary family settings are often very different in comparison with “traditional” definitions. **FamilyFusion** (<http://www.familyfusion.com/index.shtml>) is a web site that deals exclusively with issues surrounding the modern “stepfamily.” After you have explored the contents of this site, answer these questions:
 - How does today’s stepfamily differ from the traditional nuclear family?
 - Do you think that stepfamilies can be as “close” in comparison with more traditional family configurations? Why or why not?
3. One of the best-known “variations” on traditional family organization is the *single-parent family*. **Single Parent Central** is a web site devoted to the consideration and analysis of issues pertinent to single parents and their family relationships. Go to: <http://www.singleparentcentral.com/factstat2.htm>. Here, you will find a variety of facts and statistics about single parent families. After you have examined this presentation, summarize what you have learned in a short essay.

InfoTrac Exercises

1. The text points out that there is no “typical” family and that a variety of nontraditional family forms are emerging in contemporary society. Examine the diversity of family types using the keywords *family forms*. Read over the selections identified and briefly summarize the different family forms that are discussed.
2. The text discusses *cohabitation* as one of the nontraditional family forms that has emerged in American society. A related topic is *domestic partnerships*, which includes homosexual unions. In the InfoTrac “Search” box, enter the keyword *unmarried couples*; then click on “Periodicals.” Browse the articles that are listed and select 2 or 3 that you find particularly interesting. What social controversies are linked to the issues surrounding cohabitation and domestic partnerships? What are your reactions to these controversies?
3. Throughout the text, the issue of *income inequality* will be involved in many discussions. Using this keyword, browse the articles that are available through InfoTrac and try to find several that relate directly to marriage and family concerns. For example, see if you can locate articles that deal with gender differences in income, or look for articles that focus on the elderly regarding income differences.

TRUE-FALSE

1. t Today’s Americans are both apprehensive and hopeful about marriages and families.
2. f Burgess and Locke coined the term *primary group*.

3. f The nuclear family model is often called "traditional" and is never called "modern."
4. t Over 90 percent of Americans eventually marry.
5. f Childlessness has ^{increased} ~~decreased~~ in recent decades.
6. f Non-marital childbearing continued to grow in the late 1990s.
7. f Single-parent households and childless unions are not families.
8. t In varied circumstances, chosen or not, we find that families are made of people.
9. f The text concludes that the best way to make decisions about our personal lives is to make them ~~by default~~ ^{knowledgeably}.
10. t Today, staying single longer is much more acceptable in American society.
11. t All people make choices, even when they are not aware of it.
12. f Family boundaries create a zone where members feel uncomfortable and ill-at-ease.
13. t An individualistic orientation can lead us to maximize our options and choice.
14. f The juxtaposition of familism and individualism creates harmony in society.
15. t The living arrangements of children and young adults stabilized in the last decade.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. _____ Ernest Burgess and Harvey Locke saw the family as a _____ group.
a. secondary
b. primary
c. reference
d. in-
2. _____ The nuclear family model is often called "traditional," but it is also called "_____ " because it emerged with industrial society.
a. post-modern
b. pre-modern
c. modern
d. industrial
3. _____ In 2000, the median age at first marriage for women was
a. 21.5
b. 22.4
c. 22.9
d. 25.1

4. _____ According to the text's discussion of cohabitation,
- a. ☒ some cohabitants maintain gay and lesbian domestic partnerships.
 - b. ☐ all cohabiting couples are heterosexual.
 - c. ☐ since the last census, the number of unmarried couple households has declined.
 - d. ☐ most cohabitants are also parents.
5. _____ For the past two decades, the fertility rate in the United States has been around
- a. ☐ 3.7
 - b. ☐ 3.2
 - c. ☐ 3.1
 - d. ☒ 2.0
6. _____ If we try to determine the number of births that women would have over their reproductive lifetimes if all women at each age had babies at the rate current for each age group, we are calculating the _____ fertility rate.
- a. ☐ crude
 - b. ☐ refined
 - c. ☒ total
 - d. ☐ indirect
7. _____ According to the text's discussion, which of the following is an accurate statement about divorce rates today in the United States?
- divorce*
↳ stable
- a. ☐ Divorce rates continue to reach higher and higher levels. *in acc*
 - b. ☐ Divorce rates have dropped precipitously. *in acc*
 - c. ☐ Divorce rates have reached all-time lows. *in acc*
 - d. ☒ Divorce rates have stabilized, although they remain at high levels.
8. _____ According to the text's discussion, which of the following is an accurate statement about remarriage rates today in the United States?
- remarriage*
↳ declining
- a. ☒ Remarriage rates have been declining for some time.
 - b. ☐ Remarriage rates have been fluctuating for some time.
 - c. ☐ Remarriage rates have been increasing for some time.
 - d. ☐ Remarriage rates have stabilized.
9. _____ Today, a majority of American children live in _____ households.
- a. ☐ single-mother
 - b. ☐ single-father
 - c. ☐ foster
 - d. ☒ two-parent
10. _____ _____ family households include other relatives besides parents and children.
- a. ☒ Conjugal
 - b. ☐ Extended
 - c. ☐ Nuclear
 - d. ☐ Modified-extended

11. _____ According to the Census Bureau, any group of people residing together is referred to as a(n)
- a. family.
 - b. extended family.
 - ☒ c. household.
 - d. nuclear family.
12. _____ Postmodern theorists now argue that the concept of “family”
- ☒ a. no longer has any objective meaning of any sort.
 - b. is objective and analytical.
 - c. is mostly statistical in nature.
 - d. dates to ancient societies.
13. _____ In the text, two people who have chosen to share one another’s lives in an intimate and committed relationship are referred to as
- a. cohabitants.
 - ☒ b. domestic partners.
 - c. roommates.
 - d. economic partners.
14. _____ In responding to the question “What is a family?” the text points out that
- a. Burgess and Locke’s definition is the best answer.
 - b. the primary emphasis should be on *households*.
 - ☒ c. there is no one correct answer.
 - d. the primary emphasis is on married couples and children.
15. _____ According to the text, the best way to make decisions about our personal lives is to make them
- a. by default.
 - b. according to the principles of *familism*.
 - c. according to the principles of *individualism*.
 - ☒ d. knowledgeably.
16. _____ *Choosing by default* involves _____ decisions.
- a. conscious
 - ☒ b. unconscious
 - c. sub-conscious
 - d. absurd
17. _____ Placing family well-being over individual interests and preferences is referred to in the text as
- ☒ a. familism.
 - b. modified individualism.
 - c. kinship focusing.
 - d. primokinship.
18. _____ The *archival family function* refers to
- a. cataloging family heritage.
 - b. family lineage.
 - ☒ c. maintaining the family as a unique experiential reality or group.
 - d. family tradition.

19. _____ Scholars like John Edwards, Edward Kain, and Judith Stacey argue that the family
- a. is declining.
 - ☒ b. is changing.
 - c. has deteriorated.
 - d. is inflexible.
20. _____ Which of the following is NOT one of the themes developed in your textbook?
- a. Personal decisions must be made throughout the life course.
 - b. People are influenced by the society around them.
 - ☒ c. We live in a changing society.
 - d. Personal decision making feeds back into society and damages it.

SHORT ANSWER

1. Explain why there is no “typical” family.
2. Outline the major components of the text’s definition of *family*.
3. Explain how family *boundaries* function.

4. Explain Erving Goffman's concepts of *frontstage* and *backstage* behavior. Give an example of each.
5. What is the difference between *individualism* and *familism*? Give at least one example of each.

ESSAY

1. Distinguish between what the text refers to as the *nuclear family* and the *postmodern family*. Give an example of each. How have definitions of family changed over time?
2. Explain the relationship between social influences and personal choices. Give an example of how some social factor has influenced your personal decision about an issue that is relevant to marriage and family.
3. What is the difference between *choosing by default* and *choosing knowledgeably*? Based on the text's discussion, give an example of each.
4. What is the *archival family function*? Give several examples.
5. Briefly describe each of the four themes that are developed in your textbook.

ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Completion (using key terms)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. primary group | 7. choosing by default |
| 2. nuclear | 8. choosing knowledgeably |
| 3. modern | 9. values |
| 4. extended family | 10. Familism |
| 5. post-modern | 11. backstage |
| 6. the family | 12. archival |

- 13. individualistic
- 14. individualistic

- 15. decline
- 16. change

True-False (page references in parenthesis)

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. T (4) | 9. F (13) |
| 2. F (5) | 10. T (14) |
| 3. F (7) | 11. T (14) |
| 4. T (9) | 12. F (18) |
| 5. F (10) | 13. T (19) |
| 6. F (10) | 14. F (20) |
| 7. F (11) | 15. T (21) |
| 8. T (12) | |

Multiple Choice (page references in parenthesis)

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. b (5) | 11. c (11) |
| 2. c (7) | 12. a (7) |
| 3. d (9) | 13. b (8) |
| 4. a (9) | 14. c (13) |
| 5. d (10) | 15. d (13) |
| 6. c (10) | 16. b (15) |
| 7. d (10) | 17. a (18) |
| 8. a (10) | 18. c (18) |
| 9. d (11) | 19. b (20) |
| 10. b (11) | 20. d (22) |

CHAPTER 2

AMERICAN FAMILIES IN SOCIAL CONTEXT

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter begins with the observation that individuals and families vary as a result of the social settings in which they exist and that social-historical circumstances impact families in all societies and cultures.

Specific historical events and conditions—war and depression, for example—affect options, choices, and the everyday lives of families. In the Depression years, couples delayed marriage and parenthood and had fewer children than they wanted. In the 1950s, family life was not so overshadowed by national crisis. Today, a husband is far less likely to earn a family wage. In the 1960s and 1970s, marriage rates declined and divorce rates increased dramatically. The present historical moment is one of adaptation to profound cultural change and economic ups and downs.

One of the most dramatic developments of the twentieth century has been the increased longevity of our population. Not only are people living longer, but the elderly now compose a larger proportion of our population. The elderly are an increasing presence in society because families are having fewer children than they did in the past. The increasing numbers of elderly people must be cared for by a smaller group of middle-aged and young adults. The declining proportion of children is likely to affect public policy support for families raising children.

Race is a social construction reflecting how Americans think about race; **ethnicity** has no biological connotations, but refers to culture: language, customs, and history. African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, and Pacific Islanders are often grouped into a category termed **minority group**. The United States is an increasingly diverse nation: Minorities are now almost one-third of the population. African Americans are increasingly split into a middle class that has benefited from the opportunities opened by the Civil Rights movement and a substantial sector that remains disadvantaged. A higher proportion of black children than in other racial/ethnic groups lives in poverty. Throughout the twentieth century, the percentage of black children with at least one absent parent has been about twice that for whites. The “retreat from marriage” by blacks is not due to differences in beliefs about the value of marriage. As a family system, African American families are child-focused, but among the groups more likely to care for aging family members. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the U.S. There is enormous diversity within the Latino population. There is continuity as well as change for Latinos who come to the U.S. Asian Americans are often termed a “model minority” because of their strong educational attainment, high representation in managerial and professional occupations, and family incomes that are highest of all racial/ethnic groups. Asian American families are more cohesive and less individualistic than white families. A unique feature of Native American families is the relationship of tribal societies to the U.S. government. **Miller’s typology of Native American families** posited a continuum from traditional to transitional to bicultural to marginal families. Whites continue to be the numerical majority in the United States; they are largely of European descent (**Euro-American families**). Much that is written about “the family” is grounded in common patterns among middle-class whites. Non-Hispanic whites have advantages in American society that go unnoticed to them.