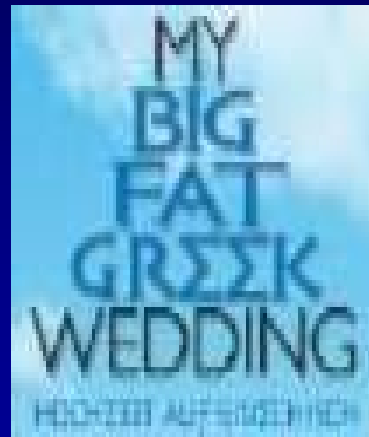


Chapter 12

The Family

Family and Marriage Across Cultures

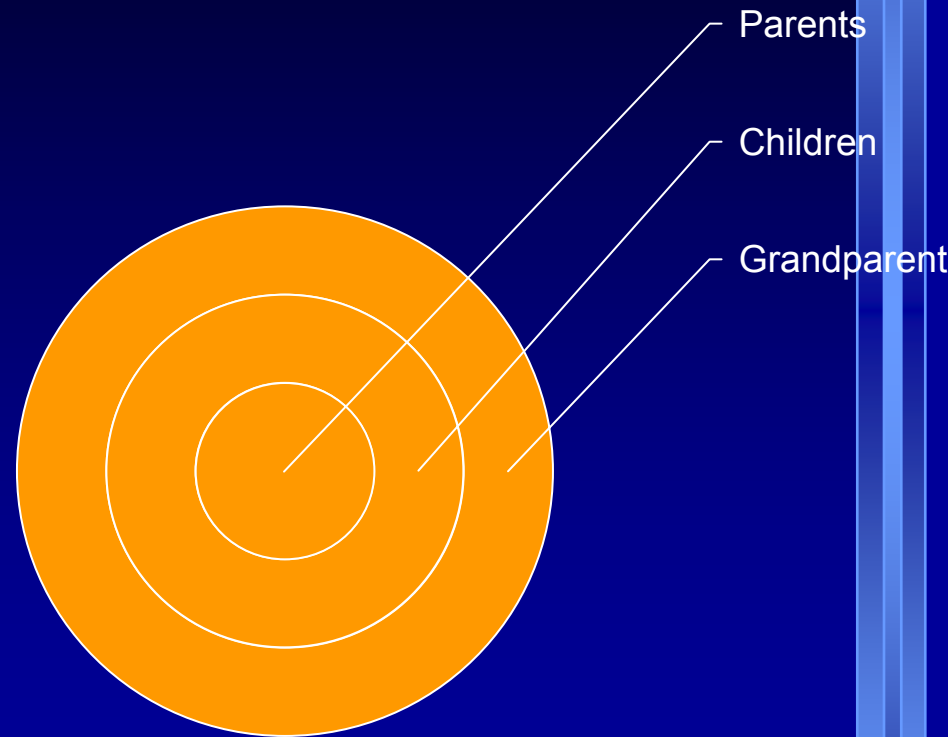


Defining the Family

- Family is a group of people related by marriage, blood, or adoption.
- Marriage is a legal union based on mutual rights and obligations.

Two Basic Types of Families

1. Nuclear – one or both parents and children.
2. Extended – two or more of the same generations of the same family whose members share economic resources and a common household. Ex. Fat Greek Wedding



Section 1: The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Marriage-Partner Patterns

- monogamy
- polygamy
 - polygyny
 - polyandry

Descent Patterns

- patrilineal descent
- matrilineal descent
- bilateral descent

Residential Patterns

- patrilocality
- matrilocality
- bilocality
- neolocality

Authority Patterns

- patriarchy
- matriarchy
- egalitarian

Section 1: The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective

- ***Number of marriage partners***—in industrialized nations marriages are usually monogamous, whereas in pre-industrial societies the normal pattern is polygyny (multiple wives)
- ***Residential Patterns***—once individuals are married they must decide where to live: patrilocal, near the husband's parents; matrilocal, near the wife's parents; bilocal, near one or the other; or neolocal, apart from both sets of parents

The Nature of the American Family

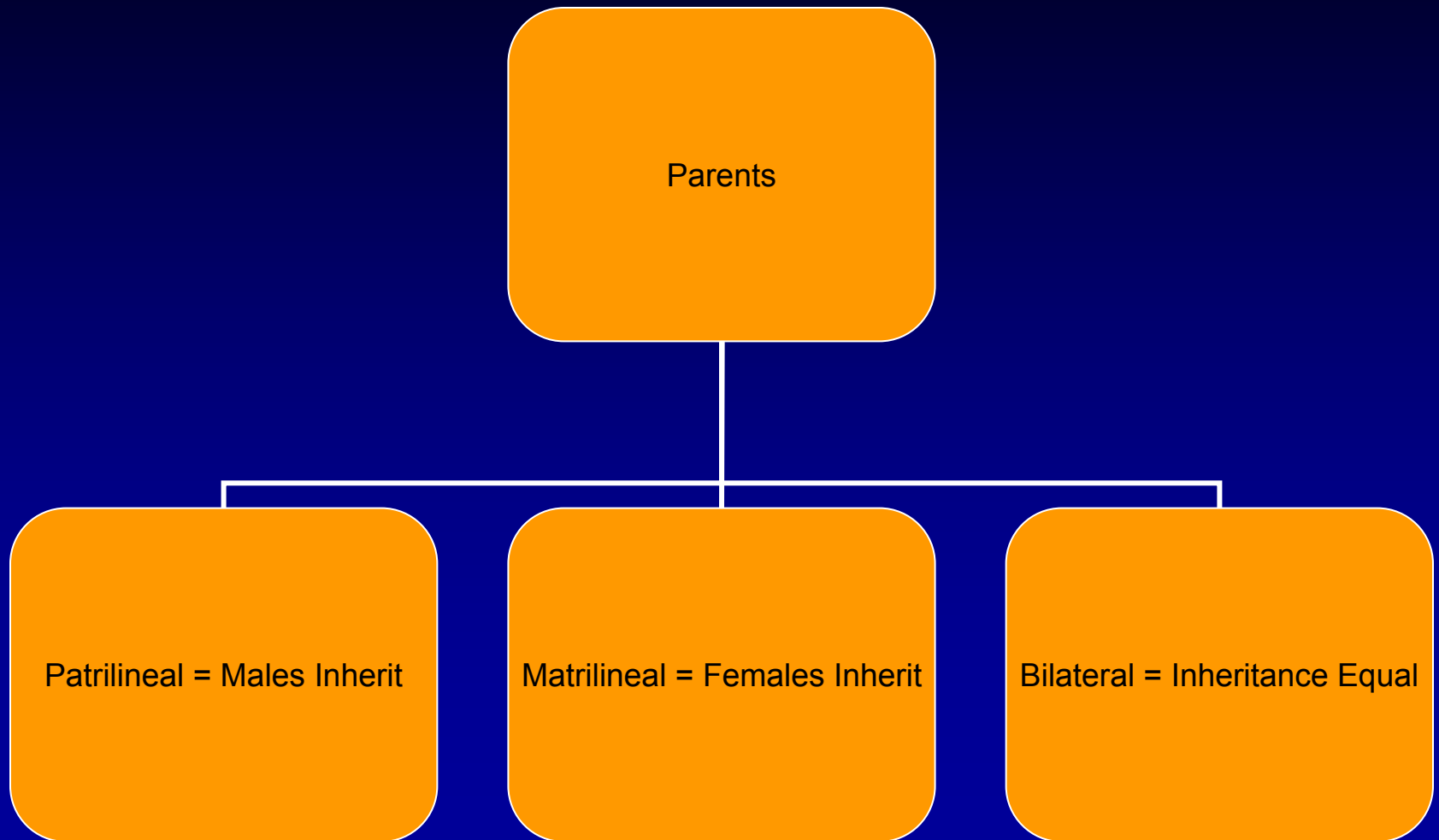


- Nuclear
- Bilateral
- Democratic
- Neolocal
- Monogamous

Section 1: The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective

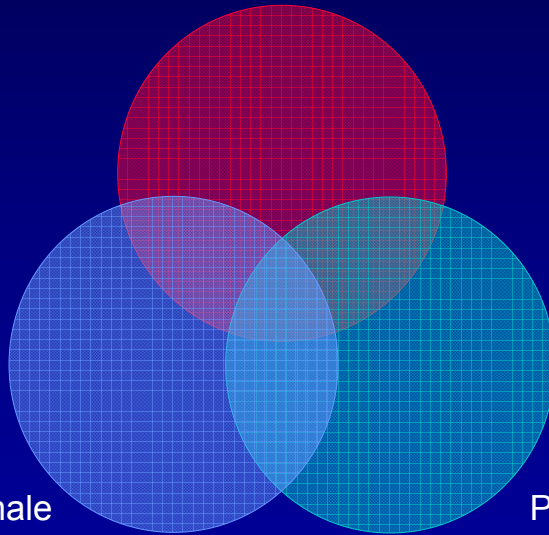
- **Descent Patterns**—in some societies people trace kinship through the father's side of the family (patrilineal); in others descent is traced through the mother's side of the family (matrilineal) or through both parents (bilateral)
- **Authority Patterns**—the three basic types are *patriarchy* (father holds the authority), *matriarchy* (mother holds the authority), and *egalitarian* (mother and father share the authority)

Who Inherits?



Who has Authority?

Equalitarian = Shared Authority



Matriarchy = Oldest Female

Patriarchy = Oldest Male

Section 1: The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective

- **Regulation of sexual activity**—enforce *incest taboo* which is a norm forbidding sexual relations or marriage between certain relatives
- **Reproduction**—societies establish norms governing childbearing and child rearing, to replace members who die or move away

- **Socialization**—children must be taught the ways of the society into which they are born
- **Economic and Emotional Security**—family acts as the basic economic unit in society and, in most cases, labor is divided on the basis of gender and age; family also guides emotional and psychological development, and should provide a loving and caring environment

Beginnings of the American Family and Disruptions

- Marriage begins with courtship and marriage between either *homogamous* (similar social characteristics) or *heterogamous* (different social characteristics) couples
- Disruptions include family violence, divorce, empty nest, return of adult children, and death of a spouse

Choosing a Mate

- **Exogamy** is the practice of marrying someone outside one's group.
- **Endogamy** requires an individual to marry within one's group.
- The tendency of people to marry those with social characteristics similar to their own is **homogamy**
- In **heterogamy**, partners are dissimilar in some important characteristics, such as age, race, social class, and ethnicity.

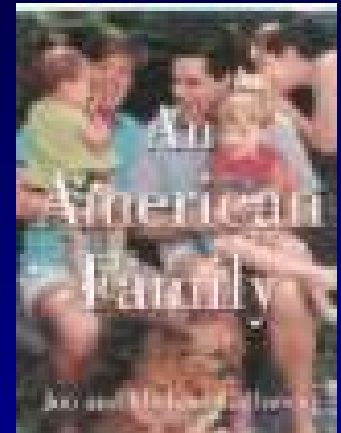
Cooperative Learning

- Using My Fat Greek Wedding as your guide identify ALL marriage arrangements that apply and explain how each applies.

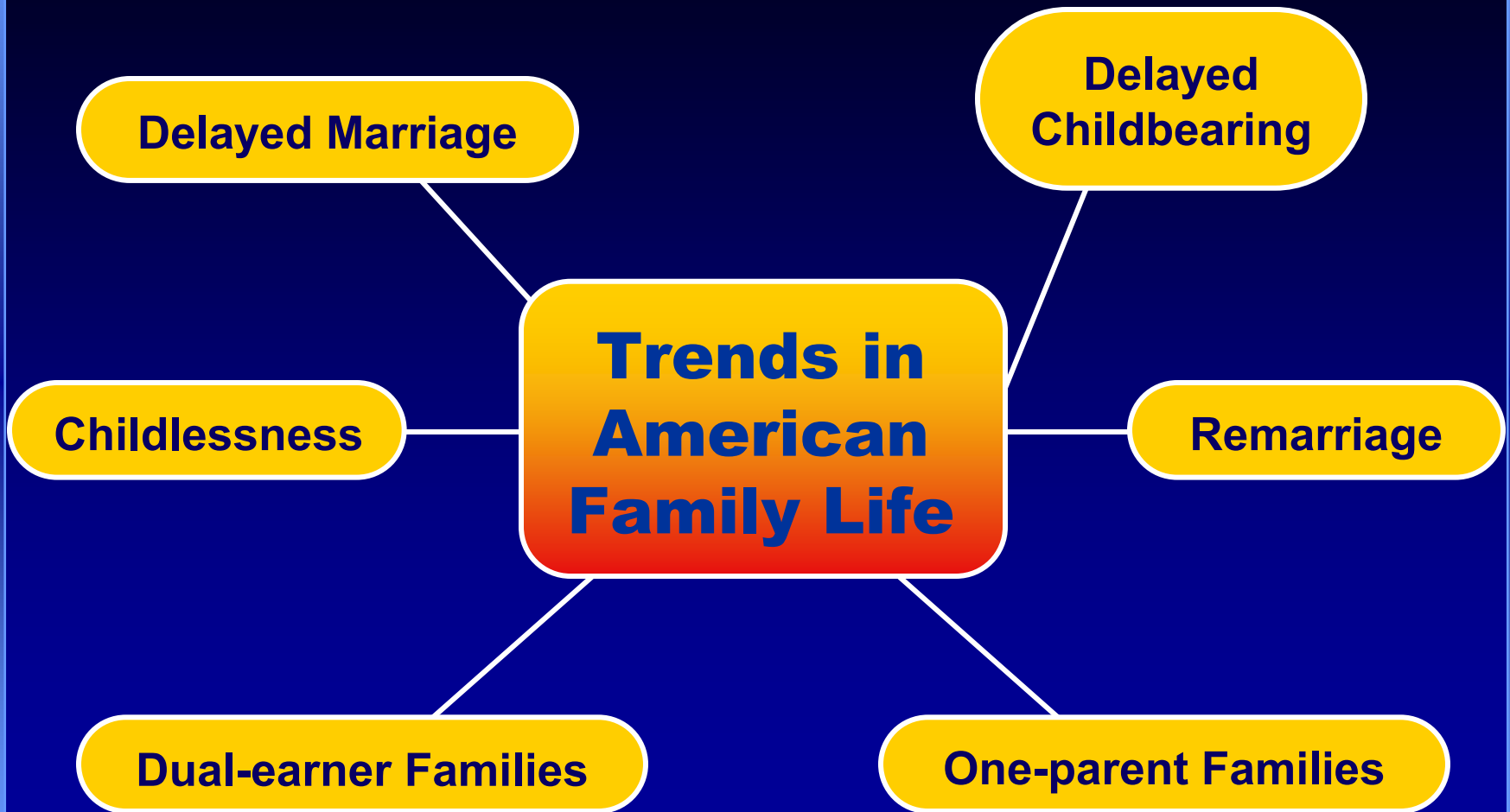


Section Targets

- Describe the Typical American Family.
- Outline the Extent and Cause of Divorce in America.
- Give an Overview of Family Violence in the United States.



Section 2: The American Family



Section 2: The American Family

- **Delayed Marriages**—current trend is to marry later in life; being single has become an acceptable alternative to being married
- **Delayed Childbearing**—women are delaying childbirth to complete their education and establish a career
- **Childlessness**—couples are making the conscious choice to remain voluntarily childless

- **Dual-Earner Marriages**—increase in the number of dual-earner marriages due to the increased number of women entering the workforce
- **One-Parent Families**—come about in various ways such as divorce, death of a spouse, births to unwed mothers, or adoption by unmarried individuals
- **Remarriage**—the majority of people who get divorced—about 75 percent—get remarried

Love and Marriage

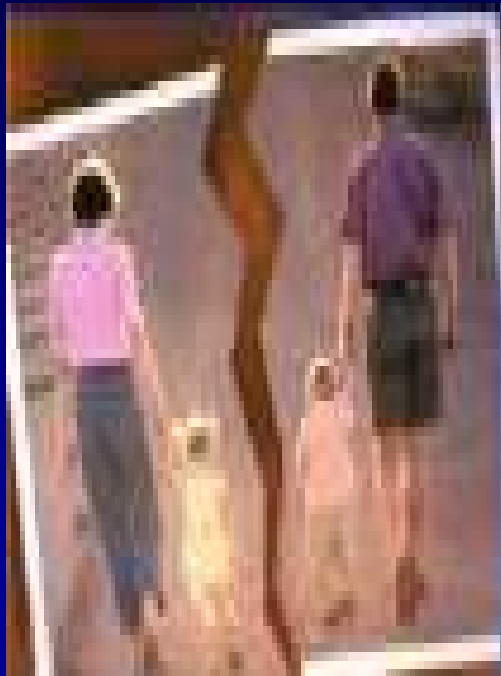
- People marry for many reasons.
 - In the United States, the norm is for love to precede the marriage vows.
 - One of the strongest motivations for marriage is conformity—parents and peers expect/pressure children to marry after a certain age.
 - Some marry for wealth, power, or career advancement.

What does the future for marriage look like?

- Recent decline in the United States divorce rate may continue for several reasons.
 - The average age at first marriage is increasing.
 - The average age of the population is increasing. As baby boomers grow older—they are no longer in the age bracket that produces the highest divorce rate.
 - American couples are having few children and spacing them farther apart, reducing one pressure on marriages.

What Causes Divorce?

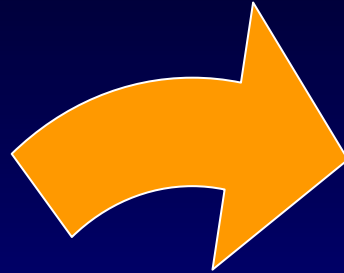
SOCIETAL FACTORS



1. Divorce increases during good times.
2. Divorce decreases during bad times.
3. 1960's increase – no stigma.
4. Women's financial independence.
5. Americans very forgiving!

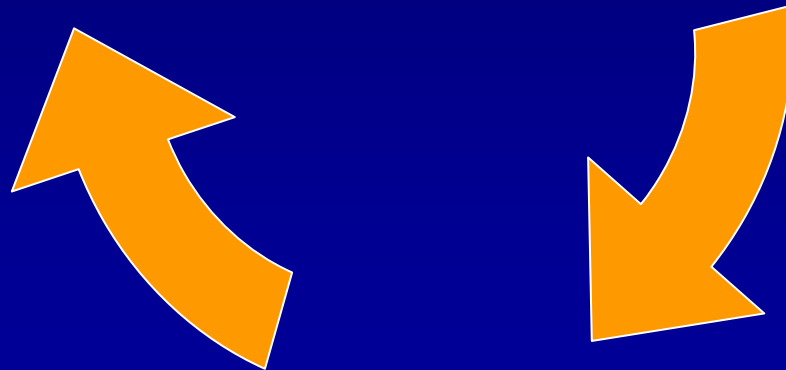
What Causes Divorce?

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL



AGE MARRIED

DURATION OF RELATIONSHIP



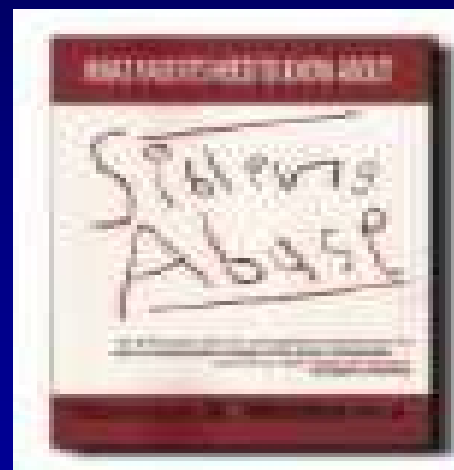
NATURE AND QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIP

Family Violence

- Family violence occurs at all class levels.
- 25% of adults in the U.S. report abuse.
- 1 in 4 females report sexual aggression.
- 1 in 10 males report sexual aggression.
- 4 million women are battered.
- No abuse is appropriate!



Most Common Family Violence



Sibling Abuse

Is abuse *ALWAYS* physical?

NO!!!

