Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 10**

10.1 Discuss how definitions of families are socially constructed and change over time.

**Video Link:** [The Role of Family and Social Change](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-u3khwsUsc)

*This video helps to explain why families as an institution, despite enormous changes in their forms, somehow endures and continues to play a uniquely important role in society.*

1. Explain two changes that has occurred that has effected the role of the family in a child’s life.
2. Name the other forms of society that a family is attached to even though families have changed over time.

**Audio Link:** [Father’s Day 2011](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/438/fathers-day-2011)

*This audio focuses on the father, a focal point of the family.*

1. How is it possible for a “family” to develop from a prison friendship and why was it so important to the father and son?
2. Do you think a man saying “I love you” has something to do with gender stratification?

**Web Resource:** [The Changing American Family](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/health/families.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

*This article focuses on the variations of the family in today’s multicultural society.*

1. Based on this article, what is “the typical American family?”
2. Explain two emerging themes from the family studies mentioned in the article.

10.2 Illustrate different patterns of mate selection.

**Video Link:** [Attraction and Mate Selection](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvjF5RyoKzI)

*This video focuses on the concepts and process of attraction and mate selection.*

1. What is the main explanations for why someone enters into a relationship?
2. What is the single most common scenario regarding how people fall in love?

**Audio Link:** [Slow to React – Isn’t it Slow-Mantic](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/425/slow-to-react?act=2)

*This audio focuses on life changing events that take a very long time to evolve.*

1. What was it about Mark’s true love that kept him looking for her?
2. What was it that prevented Mark’s true love from marrying him?

**Web Resource:** [Variation in human mate choice: Simultaneously investigating heritability, parental influence, sexual imprinting, and assortative mating](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3444291/)

*This article provides detailed information on how humans find their mates.*

1. Based on the article, explain two different ways in which romantic partners are similar.
2. Explain the influence of parents as a nongenetic factor in mate choice.

10.3 Provide examples of how families interact with other institutions.

**Video Link:** [Institutions part 1 – education, family, religion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vStLGBTKMBQ)

*This video helps to explain how institutions provide structure and support for a society, specifically education, family, and religion.*

1. How do teachers put students into categories and how does this limit students’ potential?
2. Name the three different forms of family named in the video.

**Audio Link:** [Ten Years In](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/445/ten-years-in)

*This audio focuses on the people and families drastically affected by the attacks on 9/11.*

1. How does the institution of the family react to the institution of the commemoration of 9/11?
2. Why do you think some families look forward to 9/12 each year?

**Web Resource:** [Cultural Trends, Social Movements & Institutions Affecting and Affected by the Family](http://www.trinity.edu/mkearl/fam-inst.html)

*This source provides information regarding certain social attributes that affect or are affected by the family.*

1. Is marital happiness lesser or greater in religiously homogenous unions?
2. How has the family system metamorphosed since industrialization and the expansion of the service economy?

10.4 Describe controversial issues concerning the family today.

**Video Link:** [Controversial family theme debated at Vatican assembly of bishops](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReB6A3-XO5E)

*This video explains that a summit is being described as a possible milestone in a clash between the conservative and liberal forces in the Roman Catholic Church.*

1. Explain why the summit is considered so important to the family?
2. Name two issues affecting the family that are being discussed at the summit.

**Audio Link:** [A House Divided – Don’t Make Me Separate You](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/439/a-house-divided?act=3)

*This audio is about a family that went through a divorce that actually seemed to never happen.*

1. Did the divorce make this family weaker or stronger?
2. In reality, does a family have to have parents who are married to remain a “family?”

**Web Resource:** [Changes and Issues Affecting American Families](https://new.edu/resources/changes-and-issues-affecting-american-families)

*This source details the family, especially from a statistical standpoint.*

1. What does this resource state about couples who have cohabitated before marriage and divorce rates?
2. How does childhood poverty in the United States compare to other Western democracies?

10.5 Explain the formal and informal structures of schools.

**Video Link:** [About nonformal learning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq0c43fUab4)

*This video helps to explain the difference between formal, nonformal, and informal learning.*

1. What is the difference between formal and informal learning?
2. Describe nonformal learning.

**Audio Link:** [Kid Politics – Minor Authorities](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/424/kid-politics?act=3)

*This audio provides the perspective of politics from a kid’s perspective due to innovative teaching techniques.*

1. What are free schools modeled after?
2. What type of learning would you categorize the Brooklyn Free School?

**Web Resource:** [Formal vs. Informal Education](http://enhancinged.wgbh.org/started/what/formal.html)

*This source provides detailed information on the difference between formal and informal education.*

1. Provide two differences between formal and informal education.
2. Explain one benefit to either formal or informal education.

10.6 Present evidence that schools contribute to the reproduction of social class.

**Video Link:** [Social Reproduction, Cultural Capital, Bourdieu and the Jam](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-1vmvNuO0E)

*This video provides a perspective on education in regards to social class.*

1. What does Bourdieu say about standardized exams and social class?
2. How does Bourdieu use the term “cultural capital?”

**Audio Link:** [Back to Penn State](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/451/back-to-penn-state)

*This audio focuses on Penn State and its reputation as a party school since the scandal involving its football team.*

1. Explain how Penn State affected Winereb’s life before and after the scandal.
2. Explain how Penn State fans were affected by the scandal and why violence became a part of the reaction.

**Web Resource:** [The Social Reproduction of Inequality](https://www.boundless.com/sociology/textbooks/412/education-13/education-and-inequality-98/the-social-reproduction-of-inequality-555-9623/)

*This source provides information on the conflict theorists’ viewpoint of education and social and economic inequalities.*

1. How has the United States’ educational system reinforced inequality rather than overcoming it?
2. According to conflict theory, how do schools convey to students knowledge and appropriate behavior?