**Chapter 10: Family: Family and Education: Institutionalizing Socialization**

**Recommended Readings**

Stephanie Coontz, The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia TrapThis book demonstrates that the “traditional” family demonstrated in sitcoms like Leave it to Beaver actually represented a large change over what families had been like prior to the 1950's. Here, Coontz debunks many of the myths surrounding the “traditional American family.”

Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*

This book continues Stephanie Coontz’ position that marriage has not always been what we think it is. She provides a detailed history of marriage from ancient Babylon to the Victorian era to demonstrate how recent the idea of marrying for love really is—and how this very emotion may be the undoing of the institution of marriage.

Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before MarriageFor this book, Edin and Kefalas lived among poor single mothers for several months to determine why they choose to have children before getting married. They find that a perceived shortage of “quality,” marriageable men and a high value placed on children leads to large numbers of single mothers among this group.

Sharon Hays, The Cultural Contradictions of MotherhoodHays explores the contradictory messages that women receive about motherhood. Women are expected to be competitive and assertive at work to help provide for their children, but nurturing and caring at home. New ideas about the intense investment children “require” only make parenting more stressful for working women.

Arlie Hochschild, The Second ShiftIn this book, Hochschild interviews couples to describe and explain the extra housework and parenting duties that women are expected to take on after getting home from their paid jobs. She finds that couples use a variety of strategies to rationalize why women must work the Second Shift while men are not given this responsibility.

Annette Lareau, Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family LifeLaureau interviews black and white families to examine the benefits and drawbacks of the different parenting strategies used by poor, working and middle class families.

Pamela Stone, Opting Out? Why Women Really Quit Careers and Head HomeStone interviewed white, professional women who left the workforce to stay at home with their children. She found that the reason the quit working was not because they had a strong desire to be stay at home moms. Instead, it was because they were unable to meet the huge demands of their workplaces while raising their families.

Mark Strasser, Legally Wed: Same-Sex Marriage and the ConstitutionStrasser uses a variety of past cases and state policies to examine the reasons behind banning gay marriage and argues that legal arguments against gay marriage are weak.

Nicholas Townsend, The Package Deal: Marriage, Work, and Fatherhood in Men's LivesIn this book, Townsend details the pressures faced by contemporary men to not only provide for their families, but also to be involved fathers and husbands.

Joanna Gregson, *The Culture of Teenage Mothers*

In this book, Gregson draws from her ethnographic research studying teenage mothers in high schools to describe the social and structural forces impacting teen mothering. Gregson skillfully uncovers the social stigma these teen mothers face and how they give meaning to their parental experiences.

Chrys Ingraham, *White Weddings: Romancing Heterosexuality in Popular Culture*

Ingraham, in this work, deconstructs rituals and beliefs surrounding the modern wedding to show how it romanticizes beliefs about heterosexuality. Ingraham argues that the social construction of weddings has created a “wedding-industrial complex” that feeds classism, racism, sexism, and heterosexism through the materialistic pursuit of a perfect wedding in modern society.

Kathleen Gerson, *The Unfinished Revolution: How a New Generation is Reshaping Family, Work, and Gender in America*

Gerson studies the life histories of over 100 young adults in the New York area to uncover how children born after the women’s movement were impacted by being raised after the Third Wave of feminism. Gerson examines how divorce, step-parenting, working mothers, and blended families impacts young adults’ beliefs about work, family, and relationships.

Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, David R. Johnson, Stacy J. Rogers. *Alone Together: How Marriage in America Is Changing.*

The researchers outline the two main perspectives in how marriage has changed. Some think it is in decline, that the growth of individualism has made it increasingly difficult to achieve satisfying and stable relationships. Others believe that changes, such as increasing gender equality, have made marriage a better arrangement for men as well as women. Based on two studies of marital quality in America twenty years apart, this book takes a middle view, showing that while the divorce rate has leveled off, spouses are spending less time together—people may be “bowling alone” these days, but married couples are also eating alone. Indeed, the declining social capital of married couples—including the fact that couples have fewer shared friends—combined with the general erosion of community ties in American society has had pervasive, negative effects on marital quality. However, family income has increased, decision-making equality between husbands and wives is greater, marital conflict and violence have declined, and the norm of lifelong marriage enjoys greater support than ever.

Hertz, Rosanna, and Nancy L. Marshall. *Working Families: The Transformation of the American Home*. Two sociologists look at the rise of dual-income families and the social dynamics of work and parenthood.

Ann Arnett Ferguson, Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black MasculinityUsing interviews and participant observation, Ferguson notes that some young black men are being labeled “unsalvageable” or “future criminals” by their teachers. She explores the implications these labels have on the young men's senses of self.

Samuel G. Freeman, Small Victories: The Real World of a Teacher, Her Students and Their High SchoolThis book focuses on a year in the life of one New York public school teacher and the “small victories” she achieves, including encouraging a few children's dreams of attending college.

Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities: Children in America's SchoolsKozol examines the numerous inequalities among public schools that result in poor and minority children being taught in woefully underfunded and understaffed schools and being tracked into a permanent underclass.

Peter Coolson and Caroline Hodges Persell, Preparing for Power: America's Elite Boarding SchoolsBased upon their visits to nearly 60 elite preparatory high schools, Coolson and Persell argue that these schools act as one way of transmitting privilege among the American power elite.

Murray Sperber: Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports Is Crippling Undergraduate EducationSperber critiques the party scene surrounding college sports and argue that universities, rather than attempting to quell it, rely upon this (sometimes dangerous) subculture to recruit students at the expense of quality undergraduate education.

Barrie Thorne, Gender Play: Boys and Girls at SchoolThorne observed elementary school boys and girls in the classroom and on the playground. She notes that children divide themselves (and are divided by others) into sex-segregated groups and use games like “cooties” to reinforce difference.

Claude S. Fischer, Michael Hout, Martin Sanchez Jankowski, Samuel R. Lucas, and Ann Swidler, Inequality by Design: Cracking the Bell Curve Myth  
The authors of this book attack the idea that intelligence and inequality is genetic. They detail the role educational policy and the structures of society create inequality in society.

Jonathan Kozol, The Shame of a Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in AmericaIn this best-seller, Kozol details how we have reverted to a racially segregated education system in the United States.

Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the OppressedIn this classic theoretical work, Freire argues that the poor are educated in a way so that their education is not useful or able to use to develop their human potential.

William G. Bowen, *Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America’s Public University*

Bowen provides data analysis that uncovers discrepancies in graduation rates and educational attainment, showing that widespread discrepancies persist despite the efforts of colleges and universities to address them.

James E. Rosenbaum, *Beyond College for All: Career Paths for the Forgotten Half*

Rosenbaum questions the college-for-all model of higher education we follow in the United States. He shows that our beliefs about social inequality negatively influence our ability to offer vocational education to individuals who do not have access for a college preparatory curriculum. Not all young adults, as a result, have a chance at occupational success.

Richard Arum, Irenee Beattie, Richard Pitt, Jennifer Thompson, and Sandra Way, *Judging School Discipline: The Crisis of Moral Authority*

In this book, the authors present the results of their investigation of the zero tolerance policy used in compulsory education. They argue that this policy and school discipline is much more influenced by the American legal system than the education system. As a result, teens are subjected to school discipline that undermines their educational pursuits.

Margolis, Eric. *The Hidden Curriculum in Higher Education*. Eleven essays on the ways in which higher education reproduces race, class, and gender hierarchies.

Participant Media Group. *Waiting for "Superman": How We Can Save America's Failing Public Schools*

Like all good point of view exposes this book provides many statistics and other evidence to support its point of view that the American school system is in serious need of reform. By bringing in engaging and highly controversial topics such as teacher tenure and the need for teachers’ unions, this book presents the staggering claim that the American public school system is in crisis, failing millions of students, producing as many drop-outs as graduates, and threatening our economic future. By 2020, the United States will have 123 million high-skill jobs to fill—and fewer than 50 million Americans qualified to fill them. What this volume also does is to expose the “lie” that inner city children cannot learn.

Ken Robinson. *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative*

This book can best be summarized through a quote from its author. “It is often said that education and training are the keys to the future. They are, but a key can be turned in two directions. Turn it one way and you lock resources away, even from those they belong to. Turn it the other way and you release resources and give people back to themselves. To realize our true creative potential—in our organizations, in our schools and in our communities—we need to think differently about ourselves and to act differently towards each other. We must learn to be creative.”

—Ken Robinson