Family

Group considered to be related; could be by blood; could be by marriage

Usually see families in a household = group members that live together; cooperate on a daily basis in production and share the proceeds of labor and other common resources

Two forms:
1) Family of orientation: family in which one grows up
2) Family of procreation: family when one marries and has kids

What constitutes a family of procreation varies across globe:

- Nuclear
  - common in Industrial societies & foraging groups that are highly mobile
  - once children leave home the “nuclear” family is disbanded—many then start a second nuclear family that may include their own spouse and children
    - the first nuclear family = family of orientation—family we’re raised in
    - second nuclear family = one created after leaving first nuclear family
  - conjugal nuclear family = married partners and their offspring
  - non-conjugal nuclear family = unmarried female and kids or unmarried male and kids

Some anthropologists claim that the nuclear family is the center of ALL domestic organizations because it fulfills the functions that we identified for marriage

Others disagree because other types of families fulfill these functions

Composite (compound)
- multiple nuclear families linked by a common spouse
  - polygyny: man, wives, children
- extended family = includes two or more nuclear families and often their parents residing together
  - usually include at least 3 generations
  - much more common than singular nuclear family
  - examples
    - Bosnian Muslims
    - Zadruga = multiple nuclear families live together—headed by a senior male and his wife; household could include married sons and their wives/children and unmarried sons and daughters
    - Nayar = southern India – live in tarawads = residential complex—headed by senior woman, her siblings, sister’s kids, and other matrilineal relatives

Kinship Systems

= how we connect w/others through blood (descent) and marriage

kin related to us thru descent (parent to child) = consanguines

kin related thru marriage = affines (in-laws)
Kinship systems...
- determine formation of social groups, e.g., family
- determine how people view themselves in relation to others
- regulate behavior
- help to shape individual rights and obligations

Descent Rules

Cultural recognition of children as kin of one or both parents is the basis for the concept of descent.

Some societies trace thru both parents (Canada & US); other societies = only fathers/only mothers

2 basic descent systems = corporate and cognatic

Cognatic descent: also referred to as non-unilineal descent
- bilateral (36% of cultures)
  - equally descendant thru both parents
  - people from both sides of family = relatives
- ambilineal (< 1% of cultures)
  - relative of either mother’s or father’s family but not both
  - each generation, decision made as to which family children will descend from (e.g., Osage)

Corporate descent: also called unilineal descent
- descent thru single sex line
- patrilineal = father-child (44% of cultures)
  - usually where situations require male solidarity
  - most pastoralists are patrilineal, e.g., Nuer
- matrilineal = mother-child (15% of cultures)
  - unifies groups of women as decision-making bodies
  - in societies where men often absent from local community
  - e.g., Hopi

Descent Groups

In all societies there are social groups whose membership is based on descent:
- share common ancestor extending beyond two generations

lineages – trace lines of descent to same ancestor and can demonstrate it
- trace thru mother’s line = matrilineage
- trace thru father’s line = patrilineage
- ambilineal groups = cognatic lineages

clans – related lineages w/common ancestor but exact genealogy not remembered
- ancestor may be so far back that history becomes distorted and ancestor takes on heroic proportions
- e.g., native American groups have clans – ancient lineages often just referred to as an animal (wolf, raven)
- clans can be huge (large # of people)
phratries – groups of clans thought to be related by kinship
  - may be fictitious kinship, but everyone acts as if kin

moieties – one of two descent groups
  - e.g., Jomon

kindred – all relatives on both sides (bilateral descent)
  - usually see in groups where small family groups more adaptive than large ones and individual mobility high (e.g., industrial societies)
  - e.g., me/immediate family/aunts, uncles, cousins and their offspring
  - often fall apart when unifying focus dies
  - may only get together for funerals, weddings and family reunions

Increasing social complexity often leads to bilateral descent and kindred groups (economically independent)

**Kinship Classification Systems**

= system we use to identify distinctions among relatives important to our lives

- takes into account differences:
  1. bifurcation: paternal vs. maternal kin, e.g., mother’s brother vs. father’s brother
  2. generation
  3. differences in relative age; e.g., younger vs. older sibling
  4. gender differences
  5. lineality vs. collaterality
     - Lineal: grandfather—father—son
     - Collateral: not individual’s direct ascendants or descendants; e.g., sibling, cousin
  6. sex of linking relative
  7. consanguine vs. affine