Chapter Outline

- Courtship patterns
- Choosing a mate
- Patterns of mate selection
- Conflict and violence in dating
- Living together
Parent-Arranged Marriages

- Based on principle that elders have the wisdom to select the appropriate spouse
- Lineage and family status considered more important than love
- Serve to extend existing family units rather than to create new units
- Common in many non-industrialized cultures
Advantages of Arranged Marriages

- Highly stable
- Harmonious
- Premarital intimacy is minimal
- No risk of being rejected
- Do not have to determine whether one’s partner is committed to the relationship
Couple-Arranged Marriage

- Freedom of choice in marriage, referred to as the love match
- More likely among people who:
  - Marry at a later age
  - Have a higher level of education
  - Have a higher socioeconomic status
  - Live in an urban setting
- Financially independent women more likely to opt a love match
Cultural Variations

- Semi-arranged marriages - Parental approval is obtained before the marriage
  - Example - India

- Love-based marriages - Happens more often in the larger cities
  - Example - China

- Cohabitation - Most common type of relationship until after the birth of a child
  - Example - Sweden
Dating

- Individual-choice courtship
- **Permissiveness**: Extent to which couples are physically intimate before marriage
- **Double standard**: Different standards of sexual and social behavior for men and women
## Table 10.1 - Limitations of Dating

Dating has become the predominant method of finding a potential mate in the United States and other industrialized societies, yet there are numerous limitations to the current dating system. In his book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Joshua Harris (2003) identifies several shortcomings of dating:

- Dating leads to intimacy but not necessarily to commitment.
- Dating tends to skip friendship, which should be the foundation of a stable relationship.
- Dating focuses on romantic attraction, so it lasts only as long as the romantic feelings remain.
- Dating focuses on enjoying love and romance solely for their recreational value.
- Dating often mistakes a physical relationship for love.
- Dating often isolates a couple from other vital relationships, leaving important friendships in disrepair.
- Dating takes a lot of time and energy, which can distract young adults from their primary responsibility of preparing for the future.
- Dating creates an artificial environment for evaluating another person’s character.

*Source: Excerpt from Joshua Harris, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*. Copyright © 2003 by Joshua Harris. Used by permission of Multnomah Publishers, a division of Random House, Inc.*
Contemporary Trend

Hooking up

- Common term with a vague definition, does not reveal specific details of a relationship

Reasons for confusion in the campus dating situation

- Little time for dating
- Women’s movement eliminated traditional courtship rules but did not present alternative conventions
- Coed dorms also contribute to the confusion
- There are countless ways to hang out without the anxiety and high expectations of a date
Results of National Study and Interviews of College Women

Marriage is a major life goal for the majority

Women like to meet a spouse while at college

Relationships are characterized by either too little commitment or too much

Hooking up

- Distinctive sex-without-commitment interaction ranging from kissing to oral sex and intercourse
- Ambiguity makes it popular appeal

Dating carries multiple meanings from hanging out to a high level of commitment

Men rarely ask women out and acknowledge being a couple

Being from a divorced or an intact family affects women in marriage aspirations, getting advice from parents, and hooking up

Copyright © 2014 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.
Internet Dating and Matchmaking Services

- Dating services - Discreet but expensive approach
  - No assurance on the accuracy of information provided by people
  - Lacks intimacy
  - Can be risky
Dating Among Older People

Result of:

• Divorce
• Never been married older people

Offers the potential for happiness and companionship

May hamper self-confidence

Older people opt for a:

• Direct approach in building relationships
• Long-term companionship instead of living together or marriage
Choosing a Mate

Physical attractiveness
- Men place a higher premium on physical attraction

Age and finding a mate
- **Mating gradient**: Women’s tendency to marry men who are better educated or more successful than they are
- **Sex ratio**: Relationship between the number of men and number of women of a given age

Birth order
- No conclusive evidence available to decide if birth order matters in mate section

Similar or different personalities
- Do not impact marital satisfaction

Interracial and interfaith marriages
- **Endogamy**: Tradition of choosing a mate from within one’s group
- **Exogamy**: Tradition of choosing a mate from outside one’s group
Adjustment between Ethnically Mixed Couples

- Is affected by:
  - Religion and race
  - Sex and sex roles
  - Socioeconomic differences
  - Cultural familiarity
  - Extended-family agreement
Patterns of Mate Selection

Attachment theory
- Assumes that the same kind of emotional bonds between parents and children are evident in adult intimate relationships

Exchange theory
- Focuses on how relationships are developed based on rewards received between partners

Equity theory
- Focuses on what is fair and unfair in relationships
Patterns of Mate Selection

Life course theories
- Describes how individuals and couples transition throughout different stages in life

Feminist theory
- Focuses on gender

Socio-biological theory
- Emphasizes how evolutionary factors affect romantic and sexual preferences
Conflicts and Violence in Dating

Sources of conflicts

- Early stages of relationship
  - Jealousy and other personality issues
- Later stages of relationship
  - Differences in background
  - Balance of power in the relationship
  - Parent relationships

Jealousy and differences in level of commitment may result in violent behavior.

It is likely that violent during dating will continue after marriage.
Cohabitation

- Two unrelated adults of the opposite sex sharing the same living quarters before marriage
- Applicable to same-sex unmarried couples who have an emotional and sexual relationship
Factors Affecting Rate of Cohabitation

Religion

• More religious individuals are less likely to cohabit

Divorce

• Divorced individuals are more likely to enter into a cohabiting relationship

Family discord or growing up without father

• Increases the chances of cohabiting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for Cohabitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enables spending more time together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows sharing intimacy without the commitment of marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic advantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows learning the habits and character of each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No complicated divorce if the relationship fails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows testing compatibility for a potential future marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons for Cohabiting

**Working-class couples**
- Cohabitate more quickly than middle-class couples
- Better financial alternative than living separately

**Middle-class couples**
- Have more resources to live independently
- Work requirements slowed down move toward cohabitation
- Seen as a step towards marriage