**Students Handouts on Chapter 8**

Presenters: Shavena and Amal

**Intermarriage**

*Intermarriage/ heterogamy* 🡪 marriages between partners who are from different social, racial, religious, ethnic and/ or cultural backgrounds; the opposite of homogamy.

* Interfaith marriages are also a problem.
* Intermarriage is more common in Canada’s urban communities.
* No restrictions on intermarriage.
* Little research on intermarriage – factor that will affect a couple satisfaction and durability of relationship.
* In Canada, children of all races, religions and ethnicities grow up together.
* Socialized in school, community activities and media in similar mass culture.
* The more successful parents are at raising children to be “colour blind” (to see others who are of a different race, religion, ethnicity, as equal in culture).
* More likely people will want someone from a different background.
* Difference between individuals, come from personal families.
* Claude Guldner: *describes different expectations, customs, roles and rituals of family life as the “roots” of a family because they nurture/ support individuals but that are invisible.*
* Intermarriage allows couples to discover that they have different “roots” when they negotiate marriage roles.
* Interracial marriages 🡪 the most common form of intermarriage
* Clayton Majete (American psychologist and sociologist): n*egate assumptions that people who marry someone from different race are motivated by rebellion against families or by wish to marry up by choosing someone from “desirable” rate.*
* When couples have same socio-economic backgrounds- racial difference have little impact.
* Challenge of interracial marriages is raising a biracial child
* Challenge of interfaith marriages because faith is a chosen attribute, since it is possible to convert.
* Interfaith couples should examine their personal/ cultural values in order to negotiate their daily lives.
* Interfaith couples must negotiate faith (who’s to follow)
* Interfaith couples must decide what faith to give children.
* Marriage between different ethnic groups are decreasing
* Most women are working, children staying longer in school, as well as social programs providing more support for families.

Media Link:  <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdP-Ew4oWZI>

Presenters: Komel Mirza & Hibaq Hersi

**Infidelity**

* In many [intimate relationships](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intimate_relationship), in many cultures, there is usually an express or implied expectation of exclusivity, especially in sexual matters. Infidelity known as cheating most commonly refers to a breach of the expectation of sexual exclusivity.
* Infidelity can occur in relation to [physical intimacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_intimacy) and/or [emotional intimacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emotional_intimacy). The impact of infidelity is said to be not only about sex outside the relationship, but also about trust, betrayal, [lying](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lie) and disloyalty.
* Sexual infidelity by a marriage partner is commonly called philandery, [adultery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adultery), or an [affair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affair).
* What constitutes an act of infidelity varies between and within [cultures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture) and depends on the type of relationship that exists between people. Even within an [open relationship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_marriage), infidelity may arise if a partner in the relationship acts outside of the understood boundaries of that relationship.
* Emotional infidelity is emotional involvement with another person, a process that leads one’s partner to channel emotional resources, such as romantic love, time, and attention, to someone else.
* The level of intimate involvement can extend from in-person involvement to online affairs. Emotional infidelity, as compared to physical infidelity, can inflict as much, if not more, hurt, pain and suffering. Most infidelity involves both physical and emotional unfaithfulness.
* The behavior of men and woman differs when it comes to illicit sex. Perhaps because of the original biological motivation, men are more likely to have an extramarital relationship that is primarily sexual, whereas women are more likely to seek an “affair” based on romance and affection and to have sex only when they are in love.
* The fact that intimate friendships would not be counted as extramarital sex might account for the gender difference in infidelity rates.
* This same motivation explains why women are more tolerant of sexual infidelity than emotional infidelity in their partners, but men are more threatened by their partners infidelity than by their emotionally intimate relationships.
* That men have greater opportunity for affairs and seek younger women for extramarital affairs could explain why one-third of men aged 60-69 reported one or more affairs, but the peak rate for women was 19 percent, of those aged 40 to 49.
* Double standards that tolerates and even expects more sexual activity for men than for women.

Presenters: Ashney and Xavier

**Spousal Violence**

* Many believe that marriage is based on enduring romantic love, but for women marriage can be dangerous
* Spousal violence was first defined as a problem in the 1970s due to research that resulted in the nature of violence, and the differences between ineffective conflict resolution skills or “arguments that get out of hand” and systematic violence
* In the early and mid twentieth century **domestic violence** seen as a struggle between husband and wife
* Domestic violence was also a private matter, as the police would only arrest the man if they witnessed the violence, and women would not be helped by the clergy.
* Women were afraid to leave their husbands because they would lose custody of their children and they were not entitled to support
* **Intergenerational Cycle of Violence** observes that an individual who has experienced spousal violence at a young age, are more likely to abuse or be abused
* Social theorists suggest that dealing with anger and resolving conflict can break the cycle
* Systems theory views all participants as a part of the problem and they believe that if the women left, the violence would stop
* Lenore E. Walker explained that the violent phase of the cycle was followed by a period in which the perpetrator was apologetic and remorseful or , at worst, acting as if nothing happened
* Systems theory explains that couples establish a pattern of interaction that is difficult to change
* Social exchange theory suggests that women don’t leave because the consequences of leaving are worst than staying
* A Violence Against Women Study, in 1993, found that poor men were twice as likely to beat their wives as well off men. Half of the men were under 29 years old
* Feminist theorists argue that spousal violence is the misuse of power and control, and that this violence is tolerated in a patriarchal society

Factors that increase the chances of a man assaulting his wife:

* Unemployment for more than one month
* Personal bankruptcy
* A drop in wage or salary
* Taking an additional job to make ends meet
* Child support or alimony payments
* A move to less expensive accommodations
* Taking in a border to make ends meet
* One or more demotions
* Loss of income due to a return to school
* Some other important career setback
* Some other significant negative change in economic circumstances

The rate of assault for men experiencing none or one of these was 8 in 100 men. For men experiencing six or seven of these was 33 in 100 men

Links:

Keira Knightley Domestic Abuse

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTC6_IbEveA>

Domestic Violence PSA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsKBs6gZfW0&feature=related>

Eminem- Love the Way You Lie

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uelHwf8o7_U&ob=av2e>

Presenter: Anthony Hurst & Christelle Tran

**Divorce**

* Divorce results from the failure of a marriage to meet the expectations of one or both marriage partners
* In early 20th century divorce was rare in Canada
* The functionalist perspective is based on the prevailing attitude towards marriage at that time.
* Divorce was only granted when one partner sued the other for the “matrimonial offences” of adultery or cruelty.
* The Divorce Act of 1968 reflected the expectation that marriage should be based on love and companionship and allows divorce for “marriage breakdown” after a separation of three years.
* In 1986 the Divorce Act of Canada reduced the period of separation to one year and introduced “no-fault” divorce. Again the divorce rate increased
* Estimated that about one in three marriages will end in divorce
* Those who have divorced once are more likely to divorce a second or third time, most individuals have less than a one in three chance of ever divorcing.
* Canadian sociologist Emily Nett identified two categories of divorce:
  + Marriage “mistakes” and marriage “failures”
  + Suggested that the 17% of divorces that occurred first five years of marriage reflect the basic incompatibility of couples made the wrong choice of partner because they failed to adjust their relationship through critical transition in their marriage
* Low socio-economic status, limited education, or the presence of stepchildren can lead to more difficult adjustments problems for couples
* Most divorces occur between five and fifteen years of marriage, although some couples choose to divorce much later, even in their retirement years.
* The decision to divorce occurs in a three-phase process over a two – to three year period.
  + Awareness Phase: one individual decides to initiate a divorce, often after recognizing ongoing problems and a period of denial.
  + Separation Phase: the couple plans the break-up of their marital system, settle child custody and financial issues, notify friends and family. And create separate households.
  + Reorganization Phase: the two individuals establish their separate lives and negotiate their new parental roles if they have children.
* Divorce is a non-normative event that allows individual development
* Individuals must go through emotional and economic consequences that vary amongst men and women