Chapter 7: Family

Key Concepts

**coercive controlling violence:** Forms of violence where a pattern of multiple strategies are used to seek power and control over the other person.

*Example:* This violence power and control wheel lists the various ways an abuser exerts coercive controlling violence. Retrieved from: <http://www.hopefulsurvivors.org/_Media/duluth_med.jpeg>

**demand/withdrawal pattern:** The partner who most wants a change demands through complaints, criticisms or other forms of pressure, and the one who does not want change resists by withdrawing in some way, such as changing the topic, eye avoidance, or leaving the room, resulting in a failure to resolve the conflict (Papp, Kouros, & Cummings, 2009).

*Examples:* In these images, one partner demand and the other withdraws. Retrieved from: <http://img.ehowcdn.com/article-new/ehow/images/a08/31/r3/fix-pursuer-withdrawal-relationship-800x800.jpg>

<http://mormonmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/fighting-couple.jpg>

**domestic violence:** Physical, psychological, and/or sexual abuse within a couple or family unit.

*Example:* The New York State website offers a list of facts concerning domestic violence. Retrieved from: <http://opdv.ny.gov/professionals/abusers/coercivecontrol.html>

**family:** Any group of people united by ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, or any sexually expressive relationship, in which (1) the adults cooperate financially for their mutual support, (2) the people are committed to one another in an intimate interpersonal relationship, (3) the members see their individual identities as importantly attached to the group, and (4) the group has an identity of its own. (DeGenova, Stinnett, & Stinnett, 2011, p. 5)

**gender role scripts: “**Social constructions enacted through communication” (Metts 2006). In terms of heterosexual dating norms, the predominant expectation is still that men will initiate dates and physical intimacy and that women will take primary responsibility for relationship maintenance (Laner & Ventrone, 2000).

*Examples:* This is a girl in a toy store ranting about how it’s unfair that companies market toys in such gendered ways. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CU040Hqbas>

\*Counter example: a girl in a transformer costume asking if a tiara has weapons. <http://media-cache-ec5.pinterest.com/upload/223913412693767696_B4SpdWpp_c.jpg>

**gender/sex roles:** Binary gender social expectations based on a person’s sex (Ryle, 2012).

*Example:* This animated short video compares how men and women do things. Although it draws heavily on stereotypes, it demonstrates binary gender social expectations based on a person’s sex. Retrieved from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCz08Bw9wEQ>

**heteronormativity:** This concept encompasses legal, cultural, organizational and interpersonal practices that reinforce unquestioned assumptions about gender/sex. These include “. . . the presumptions that there are only two sexes; that it is ‘normal’ or ‘natural’ for people of different sexes to be attracted to one another; that these attractions may be publicly displayed and celebrated; that social institutions such as marriage and the family are appropriately organized around different-sex pairings; that same-sex couples are (if not ‘deviant’) a ‘variation on’ or an ‘alternative to’ the heterosexual couple” (Kitzinger, 2005, p. 478).

*Example:* This Pepsi Max commercial demonstrates heteronormativity as an assumed heterosexual man is oblivious as attractive women flirt with him. The commercial reveals that the man is in fact attracted to men. Retrieved from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIG0kB9lOxo>

**nuclear family:** Presumes a self-supporting, independent unit (excluding extended family), composed of two heterosexual parents legally married performing separate masculine and feminine family roles. For nuclear families, the male is the primary wage earner and the female is the primary homemaker. The nuclear family is considered the embodiment of a healthy family and the foundation of society (Ruane & Cerulo, 2008; Walsh, 2012). In reality, the nuclear family has never been the most common family structure and any family structure is susceptible to being unhealthy.

*Examples:* Below are the links to images of famous television and real life nuclear families:

Leave it to Beaver: <http://i.i.com.com/cnwk.1d/i/tim/2012/09/22/leaveittobeaver.jpg>

The Simpsons: <http://tv.mmgn.com/Lib/Images/Articles/Normal/Top-10-Dysfunction-Families-in-American-Television-1061463.jpg>

Family Guy: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/1/1c/Griffin_family.png/220px-Griffin_family.png>

The Obama’s: <http://i.huffpost.com/gen/440025/OBAMA-FAMILY-PORTRAIT-2011.jpg>

The Osborne’s:

<http://mtv.mtvnimages.com/onair/osbournes/NEW_main_images_june_2007/osbournes_281x211.jpg?quality=0.85>

**situational couple violence:** This type of violence is perpetrated by both partners in heterosexual or same sex relations, married or cohabitating. It is not typically tied to relationship-wide patterns of control and coercion. Either partner is likely to initiate the violence in specific situations, such as observing one’s partner flirting with another person, or stress due to finances or child concerns. The violence typically happens with less frequency and severity, and partners are not afraid of each other as in coercive controlling violence (Kelly & Johnson, 2008).

*Example:* This video shows various clips from *The Notebook* in which the characters engage in situational couple violence. Retrieved from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QzGdqlaG-M>

**violent resistance:** A person tries to protect her/himself by resisting the other’s abuse.

*Examples:* Jennifer Lopez’s decision to fight back when her husband abuses her in the movie, *Enough*. Retrieved from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl2r8hyUuRg>