## Social Organization and Kinship

1. Human Social Organization
   1. What are the groups and relationships?
   2. There are many reasons why and many different ways in which human beings into corporate groups
   3. Why do we form corporate groups?
      1. Corporate forms
         1. Regulating behavior or establishing rights
         2. Owning Property
         3. Producing and Distributing Wealth
         4. Inheriting Property
         5. Consuming and Residing
         6. Social and Emotional Needs of Members
         7. Creating a sense of identity
         8. Perpetuating the group
         9. Establishing Alliances between groups
      2. Shared non-kinship based characteristics
         1. Age or generation
         2. Common interest (religion, education, etc)
         3. “Race”
         4. Ethnicity
         5. Nationality / Citizenship
         6. Socio-economic status
         7. Sex or gender
      3. Kinship Relations
         1. Kinship
            1. Relationships based on marriage or descent (birth or blood)
         2. Marriage - Who may one marry
            1. Relationships based on mating Links individuals & groups in long-term relationship
            2. Socially recognized
            3. Enduring if not permanent
            4. Bond between two or more people
            5. Establishes certain rights and obligations (sexual, economic, political, ritual, etc)
            6. Diverse across cultures

Three main functions of marriage

Biological reproduction

Bearing children

Regulating sexual activity

Social Reproduction

Enculturation and training of next generation

Reproducing labor

Inter-group alliance

* + - * 1. Why is marriage universal?

Gendered division of labor

Prolonged infant dependence among human beings

Sexual competition

Integrated with group alliance and individual status

In modern, Western Societies, it is often assumed that romantic love is the basis of marriage

Arranged marriages: In many societies, marriages may been and are arranged by parents – individuals may hardly know each other

Love may be expected to grow later, or not

Other bases of marriage include economics or politics

* + - * 1. The incest taboo – Claude Levi-Stauss

Exists in all cultures in some variation

However, definitions of who one may or may not marry vary cross-culturally

Defines who is and who is not appropriate to marry or have sexual relations with (often based on blood and descent)

* + - * 1. Marriage Systems

Who is an acceptable marriage partner?

Potential, acceptable, or idea marriage partners

Endogamy = Should marry within your own group or “kind”

Exogamy = Should marry outside of your own group or “kind”

**Class or caste**

**language**

**royalty/mobility**

**ethnicity**

**nationality**

**age group/generation**

**family**

**religion**

**sex/gender**

How many people can/should you marry and when?

Monogamy

Serial Monogamy

Married at one person at a time

Absolute / Lifelong monogamy

Married to a single person their whole life

Polygamy

Polygyny

One man has multiple wives

Most common marriage form across cultures

Polyandry

One woman has multiple husbands

How is wealth or property involved in the arrangement or completion of a marriage?

Bride wealth or bride price

Man make monetary gift to female’s family

Bride service

Man does service for female’s family

Dowry

Woman’s family pays by sending wealth with daughter

* + - 1. Descent
         1. Relationships based on birth
      2. What is Kinship?
         1. Universal, cross-cultural way of organizing people into groups
         2. Main Principles

Residence – Where may one live?

Descent: To whom is one related by birth/blood?