## **Detailed Contents**

About the Author xiii
Preface xv
Acknowledgments xvii

#### Chapter 1: Introduction 1

Family Change, Family Continuity 2
Family Diversity and Inequality 3

Sociological Perspective on Families 5

Applying the Sociological Perspective: The Standard North American Family and the Ideology of Separate Spheres 7

Understanding Contemporary Families 11

A Demographic Snapshot of the U.S. Population 13

Looking Ahead 18

Main Ideas 19

#### Chapter 2: Defining Family 21

#### Defining Family: Four Approaches 21

- 1. Family as Structure 22
- 2. Family as Household 23
- 3. Family Roles 25
- 4. Family as Interaction: Doing Family 26 Defining Family: A Summary 26

How Americans Define Family 27

Extended Families 31

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Defining Families 35 Main Ideas 36

# Chapter 3: Sociological Methods and Theories in the Study of Families 37

Scientific Method 37

Micro and Macro Approaches to Studying Families 40 Research Methods 40

Theoretical Frameworks in the Sociology of Families 43

Structural-Functionalism 44 Conflict Theory 46 Symbolic Interactionism 48

Feminist Theories 49 Social Exchange Theory 50 Life Course Theory 52 Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Family Methods and Theories 54 Main Ideas 54
Chapter 4: Young Adults and the Transition to Adulthood 55
Defining the Transition to Adulthood 56  Transition to Adulthood in Historical Context 58  Transition to Adulthood in the Early  21st Century 61
Economic Uncertainty and Higher Education 62 Changing Patterns of Family Formation 64 Changing Relationships With Parents 65
Young Adult Sexuality and Romantic Partnerships 67  Dating in Historical Context 68  Decline of Dating and the Rise of Hookup Culture 71  Sexual Debut 72  Hooking Up 74
Change, Continuity, and Diversity in the Transition to Adulthood 76 Main Ideas 77
Chapter 5: Marriage and Cohabitation 79
Marriage and Divorce in Historical Context 80 Institutional Marriage 81 Companionate Marriage 82 Individualized Marriage 83
Contemporary Coupling 85  Cohabitation 85  Nonmarital Fertility 89  Same-Sex Marriage 91  Marriage Markets 94
Marriage Markets 57

Marriage Markets 94

Marriage, Cohabitation, and Education 95

Marriage, Cohabitation, and Race-Ethnicity 98

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Marriage and Cohabitation 101

Main Ideas 102

#### Chapter 6: Divorce and Relationship Dissolution 103

Rising—and Declining—Divorce 105 Demography of Divorce 106

The Process of Uncoupling 111

Legal Divorce 112
Parental Divorce 114
Financial Divorce 116
Emotional and Social Divorce 117

Relationship Dissolution and Children 119

Relationship Dissolution Among Unmarried Parents 122

Supporting Children When Parents Break Up 123

Economic Support 124
Reducing Conflict 126
Effective Parenting 126
Relationships With Fathers 126
Fewer Transitions 127

Remarriage and Blended Families 127

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Divorce and Relationship Dissolution 129

Main Ideas 130

#### Chapter 7: Parents and Children 131

#### Children and Parents in Historical Context 132

Childhood: Economically Useful to Emotionally Priceless 132 Fatherhood: Moral Overseer to Breadwinner 135

Motherhood: Productivity to Domesticity 136

#### Issues in Contemporary Childrearing 137

Demographic Patterns in Fertility 138
Time With Children 140
Parenting as a Gendered Practice 142
Parenting Ideologies and Social Class 145
Immigrant and Transnational Parenting 147

Gay and Lesbian Parenting 150

Opting Out of Parenthood 152

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Parenting and Childhood 154

Main Ideas 155

Chapter	8;	Family	Work	157
---------	----	--------	------	-----

Ideology of Separate Spheres 158

Defining Care Work 159

Empirical Patterns of Employment, Housework, and Childcare 161

Women's Employment Before 1950 161

Women's and Men's Employment Since 1950 163

Housework 165

Macro-Level Perspectives on Housework 169

Childcare 169

Work-Family Conflict and Social Policy 173

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in Family Work 178

Main Ideas 178

#### Chapter 9: Family Lives of Older Adults 179

Defining Old Age 180

Demographic Context 181

Romantic Relationships Among Older Adults 185

Grandparenting 189

Grandparents as Caregivers 190

Intergenerational Solidarity and Ambivalence 193

Intergenerational Exchanges 196

Parents Helping Adult Children 196

Adult Children Helping Parents 196

Ambivalence, Individualism, and Intergenerational Support 198

Family Complexity and Aging Families 199

Change, Continuity, and Diversity in the Family

Lives of Older Adults 200

Main Ideas 201

### Chapter 10: Social Policy and the Future of Families 203

Defining Family 203

Family Change 205

Family Continuity 206

Family Diversity, Inequality, and Social Policy 208

Housing Policy and Family Inequality 209 State Welfare Policy and Family Inequality 212

#### Future of American Families 216

Economic Inequality and the Growing Class Divide in Families 216 Immigration, Race-Ethnicity, and Family Ties 218 Unfinished Revolution in Gender and Sexuality 220

## Change, Continuity, and Diversity in American Families 222 Main Ideas 223

Glossary 225 References 229 Index 249