Kinship Diagrams
Unit Learning Objectives

• Differentiate between nuclear & extended families.
• Distinguish between family orientation & family procreation.
• Define and differentiate between kinds of descent groups and postmarital residence rules.
• Differentiate between lineages and clans.
• Differentiate between genealogical kin types and kin terms.
• Demonstrate your understanding of kinship diagrams through an activity.
Kinship (a.k.a) ‘Basic Building Block of Society’

- Basic principle of organizing individuals into social groups, roles, and categories
- Considerable diversity observed across cultures
Kinship Calculation

- How people in a particular society reckon kin relations
  - Ego: position from which one views an egocentric genealogy

- Kinship is culturally variable
  - Terms will differ from culture to culture
  - BUT there are a limited # of patterns in which people classify their kin
Genealogical Kin Types & Kin Terms

- Genealogical Kin Types vs. Kin Terms
  - Genealogical Kin (e.g. father’s brother)
  - Kin Terms (e.g. uncle)

- See p244, Figure 10.6 (and the following slide)
Kinship Diagram Symbols

- Male
- Female
- Nonspecific gender
- Married to
- Divorced from
- Connect parents and children
- Deceased
- Female EGO
- Male EGO
- Connect siblings

Disregard colors!
World Distribution of Kinship Systems

- **Hawaiian**: 36%
- **Iroquois**: 29%
- **Omaha**: 9%
- **Crow**: 6%
- **Sudanese**: 9%
- **Eskimo**: 11%
Eskimo System

- 1/10th of the world’s societies
- Associated with bilateral descent
- Emphasizes the nuclear family by using separate terms (mother, father, sister, brother) that are not used outside the nuclear family.
Eskimo Kinship System
Hawaiian System

- Found in 1/3 of the societies in the world.
- Uses a classification system based on sex & gender:
  - A person’s father, father’s brother, and mother’s brother are all referred to as father.
  - In EGO’s generation, the only distinction is based on sex
- Nuclear family members are roughly equivalent to more distant kin.
Hawaiian System

Hawaiian Kinship

- Δ = Male
- ○ = Female
- Ego = Subject of Chart
- GrFr = Grandfather
- GrMo = Grandmother
- Fr = Father
- Mo = Mother
- Br = Brother
- Z = Sister
Iroquois System

• EGO’s father and father’s brother are called by the same term, mother’s brother is called by a different term.

• EGO’s mother and mother’s sister are called by one term, a different term is used for EGO’s father’s sister.

• EGO’s siblings are given the same term as parallel cousins.
Iroquois System

Iroquois Kinship

- GrFr (Grandfather)
- GrMo (Grandmother)
- Un (Uncle)
- Fr (Father)
- Au (Aunt)
- Mo (Mother)
- Br (Brother)
- Z (Sister)
- Co (Cousin)

Legend:
- △ Male
- ○ Female
- Ego Subject of Chart
- FrFr Grandfather
- GrFr Grandfather
- GrMo Grandmother
- Fr Father
- Mo Mother
- Un Uncle
- Au Aunt
- Br Brother
- Z Sister
- Co Cousin
Omaha System

- Emphasizes patrilineal relationships
- EGO’s father and father’s brother are called by the same term, and EGO’s mother and mother’s sister are called by the same term.
- On the mother’s side of the family, is ‘lumped’ across generations
- That merging of generations does not occur on the father’s side
Omaha System
Crow System

- Concentrates on matrilineal kin
- Mirror image of the Omaha system.
- The father’s side of the family are ‘lumped’ across generations
- On EGO’s mother’s side of the family, which is the important descent group, generational distinctions are recognized.
Crow System
Sudanese

- The most complex naming system.
- Each category of relative is given a specific term.
  - Therefore there can be as many as 8 different terms for cousins.
- This naming system is found in Sudan and Turkey
  - It mirrors the society in how naming can reflect class, occupation and political power.