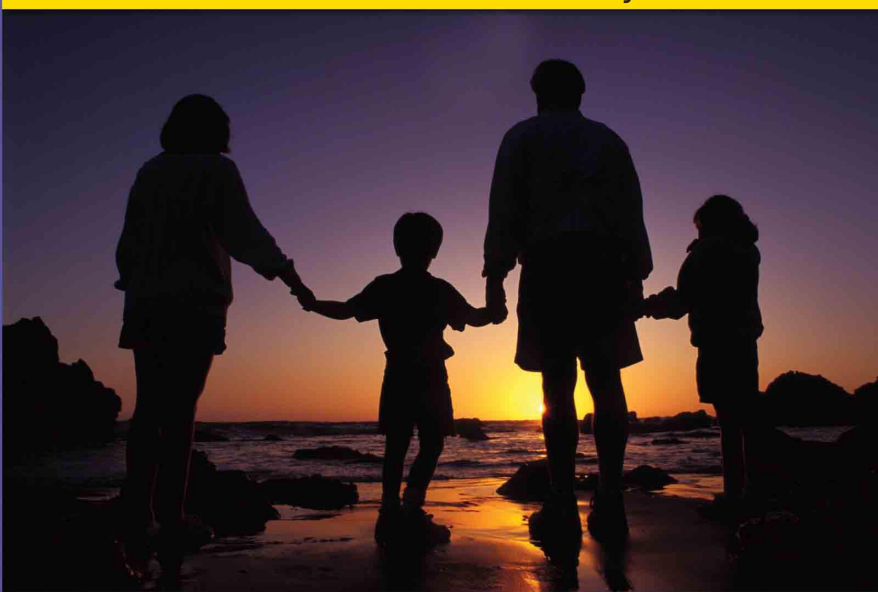


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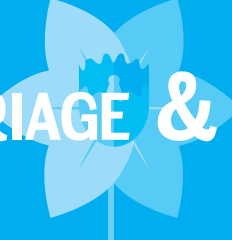
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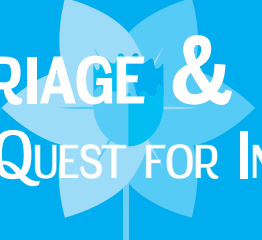
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THE QUEST FOR INTIMACY

Ninth Edition

Robert H. Lauer
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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: THE QUEST FOR INTIMACY, NINTH EDITION

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*To Jeffrey Mathew, Krista Julianne, Benjamin Brindle,
David Christopher, John Robert, and Adelaide Jeanette
Who are embarking on the quest*



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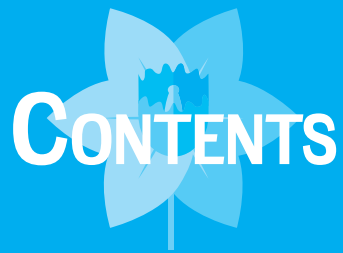
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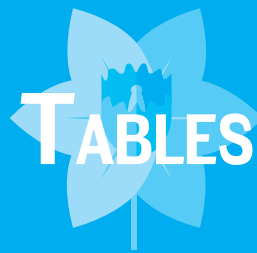
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PREFACE

What do you want out of life? If you are like most Americans, you would probably include happiness in your answer. But where can you find happiness? We wrote this text because we believe your personal happiness is crucially tied up with the quality of your intimate relationships. The text not only will provide you with a basic understanding of marriage and family life but also will show you how you can apply the knowledge you gain to enrich your life. In other words, this is not only a text; it's a practical guide as well. It is conceptual and theoretical social science, but it is also *applied* social science. The former comes from the wealth of information and the empirical work of the hundreds of researchers we discuss. The latter is found in the “Principles for Enhancing Intimacy” sections presented in each chapter as well as in the “Personal,” “Comparison,” and “What Do You Think?” inserts. Hopefully, by the time you complete this book, you will have a thorough understanding of marriage and family life today and an understanding of the steps you can take to enhance the quality of your own intimate relationships.

ORGANIZATION

We have organized the book to answer a series of questions: What is the context in which intimate relationships occur? What is the meaning of intimate relationships, and how do we establish them? What is the nature of intimacy for married couples? What is the nature of intimacy in the family? What kinds of things threaten intimate relationships, and how do people cope with those threats? What is family life like in the later years? Is it all worth it?

Part One addresses *context*, discussing beliefs and dreams about marriage and the family, the diversity of family life, and the gender roles and sexuality that are integral to intimacy.

Part Two explores the *meaning of intimate relationships* and how they are established. We discuss the

process of getting involved with someone and falling in love. We also note the special case of those who remain single and how they deal with intimate relationships.

Part Three looks at *the nature of, and problems with, intimacy in marriage and family life*. We discuss such issues as making the transition from singlehood to marriage, communication, conflict, work, and parenting.

Part Four is an examination of various *threats to intimate relationships*. Family crises, including alcoholism and violence as well as numerous other stressors, put strains on the family. Separation and divorce are one way of dealing with the strains. Those who do get divorced are likely to remarry at some point, so one chapter explores the reconstituted family.

Finally, Part Five looks at the *family in later years*. We include such topics as the sandwich generation, the empty nest, grandparenting, and death and grief. We close with our answer to the question of whether, considering both the challenges and the rewards involved, pursuing intimacy is worth the effort.

CHANGES IN THE NINTH EDITION

We have updated this edition throughout with the latest available information. First, we have incorporated the latest available research—more than 200 new references from the professional literature. Second, we have utilized the most recent government data. The new references and government data, in addition to updating our knowledge about intimate relationships, provide increasingly more information on racial and ethnic differences in those relationships. This information, integrated throughout the chapters as appropriate, shows how Americans of various racial and ethnic backgrounds have similar as well as dissimilar experiences in their family relationships.

In addition to updating every chapter's research base and statistical data, we have made a number of other enhancements to the text's coverage. Here is a sampling

of topics for which there is updated and/or expanded information:

- The consequences of loneliness (Chapter 1)
- Societal changes with regard to same-sex marriage and parenting (Chapter 2)
- The role of the media on our understanding of gender roles (Chapter 3)
- The issue of sexting (Chapter 4)
- The practice of “hooking up” (Chapter 5)
- What facilitates and what hinders marital satisfaction (Chapter 7)
- Issues that arise when mothers work outside the home (Chapter 11)
- How corporal punishment affects children (Chapter 12)
- The problem of violence in family life (Chapter 13)
- The crucial importance of child custody following a divorce (Chapter 14)
- The challenges of emerging adulthood (Chapter 16)

LEARNING AIDS

The World Wide Web has become a tool that can enrich our understanding of marriages and families around the world. The ninth edition takes full advantage of online resources with updated *On the Web* exercises at the end of every chapter and a unique book-specific website (see below for more).

We have retained many other important pedagogical aids from previous editions—learning objectives, chapter overviews, and end-of-chapter summaries. Finally, we have included four unique tools to promote active learning and critical thinking:

- “Personal” inserts feature an actual experience that has been shared with the authors. We have changed the names, but the people and the circumstances are real. The “Personal” inserts illustrate some principle or principles in the chapters. They should help you to grasp the principles more fully by seeing them at work in a real situation. The “Personal” inserts could also form the basis for interesting class discussions and analysis.
- “Comparison” inserts examine some topic in each chapter in terms of what happens in other societies. Our understanding is incomplete as long as we know only about our own society. The materials range from how certain Eskimo children learn to be male and female to how the Japanese divorce. These cross-cultural data reveal both similarities and differences with current American practices. Seeing the similarities makes us

feel less alone, more a part of all humankind. Seeing the differences helps us become more tolerant and more appreciative of the rich diversity of humans.

- “Principles for Enhancing Intimacy” inserts draw on the materials in each chapter to create practical courses of action students can take to make their own intimate relationships more meaningful and more fulfilling. The principles turn academic knowledge into practical tools for intimate relationships. As a result, students will gain not only understanding but also the skills necessary for constructing a rich life of intimacy.
- Finally, the “What Do You Think?” inserts present you with the arguments made on each side of a series of controversial issues. We make no effort to resolve the issues or to give you our own position. The issues reflect value differences as well as disagreement about interpretation of data. As you reflect on the various controversies, think about the arguments on both sides. Which ones seem to you to be most persuasive? Can you think of additional arguments? Can you understand the thinking of the side with which you disagree? Did seeing both sides of the issues help clarify your own position? These inserts should help you understand the complexity of many issues as well. Hopefully, they will also help you respect the position of those with whom you disagree as you recognize that both sides have thoughtful points to make.

SUPPLEMENTS

As a full-service publisher of quality educational products, McGraw-Hill does much more than just sell textbooks. The company creates and publishes an extensive array of print, video, and digital supplements for students and instructors. This edition of *Marriage & Family* is accompanied by a robust supplements package.



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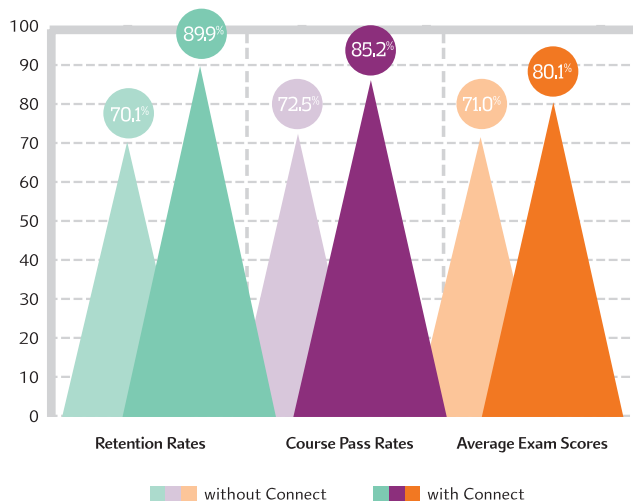
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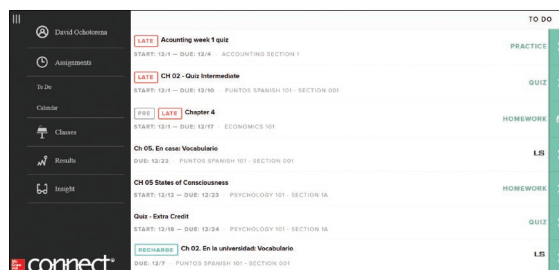
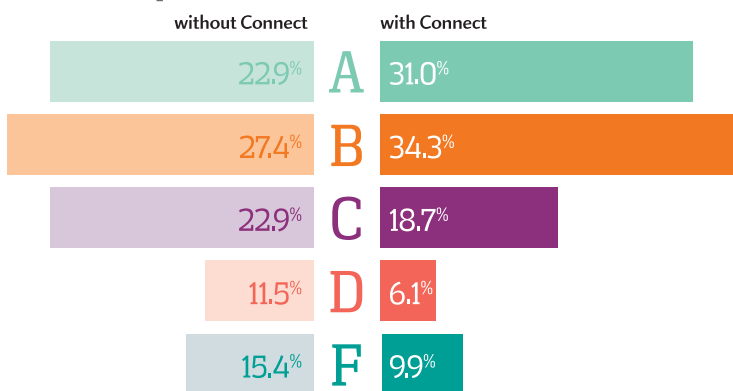
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