Chapter Seven Overview

- Heterosexual Courtship and Mate Selection
- Changing Sexual Behavior
- Differentiated Forms of Intimacy
Heterosexual Courtship

- Variations in Dating Practices
  - Gender - Traditional gender role expectations still structure interactions
  - Class - Dating and courtship patterns vary by social class
  - Race - Interracial relationships are likely to form in integrated settings
Heterosexual Mate Selection

- **Factors in Mate Selection**

- Legal - Legal regulations prohibit marriage between close relatives

- **Structural Influences**
  - Availability of marriageable partners
  - Variety of group affiliations
Changing Sexual Behavior

- Social Constructionist Perspective

  - Sexuality exhibits great variability across time, space, and the life course

  - Sexuality is socially controlled and closely bound up with race, class, and gender
The Sexual Revolution

- From a family-centered reproductive system in colonial days to romantic sexuality in the 19th century

- By 1920s, sexuality became major source of identity and self-discovery
AIDS

- The number of new U.S. cases has risen every year since 2001
- In 2004, 70% of women who were diagnosed with AIDS were infected through heterosexual contact
- HIV has increasingly become a disease of color
Teen Sexuality

- Adolescents today have more sexual freedom than did the preceding generations
- Approximately 50% of teenagers have had sexual intercourse by the time they finish high school
- U.S. has highest rates of teenage pregnancy
Differentiated Forms Of Intimacy

- Women and men want and expect different things from their intimate heterosexual relationships.

- The model for male sexuality stresses performance while the female model stresses the emotional relationship.

- The expectations and styles of love vary by gender
Same-Sex Orientation and Intimacy

- Variance from the norm of heterosexuality was legally prohibited until 2003.
- Broad social support networks are missing for gay and lesbian couples.
- Gender plays an important part in intimate relationships, whether heterosexual or gay.
Social Class and Intimacy

- The experience of sexuality and love varies by social class
- While most people uphold the ideology of love, there are class differences in resources to sustain that ideal.
- Differences of color, culture, and ancestry create clear sexual boundaries