Lecture Notes – 11-3

Nature of American family:

* Nuclear
* Bilateral: inheritance passed through both parents
* Democratic: partners share decisionmaking
* Neolocal: families live apart from parents
* Monogamous

Reasons for marriage:

* Romantic love
* Career advancement
* Economic security
* Conformity
* Peer pressure

Divorce

* Doubled between 1960-1981.
* Depends on age: older the better
* Years married: longer married, less chance of divorce
* Nature and quality of the relationship: the more flexible, the better.
* More financial independence for women.
* Attitudes changing.

Marriage:

* Average age is increasing
* Having less children (DINCs)

Family violence:

* Appears to be increasing…reasons for this?
* Types of abuse: physical, mental, emotional.