Table of Contents

Acknowledgements
About the Authors
INTRODUCTION
What Is Theory?
Where Do Theories Come From?
How Are Theories Developed?
Theory in Historical Perspective
Family Theory
Text Organization
CHAPTER ONE: SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM THEORY
History
Important Early Contributions
Principal Scholars
Basic Assumptions
First Overarching Theme
Second Overarching Theme
Third Overarching Theme
Primary Terms and Concepts
Symbols
Interaction
Gestures
Social Norms
Rituals
Roles
Salience
Identity
Common Areas of Research and Application
African American Families
The Digital Age
The Role of Intercultural Interactions
Methodological Issues
Critique
Application
Sample Reading: "Symbolic Interactionism in Grounded Theory Studies: Women Surviving with HIV/AIDS in Rural Northern Thailand." Areewan Klunkin and Jennifer Greenwood
CHAPTER TWO: STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM THEORY
History
Primary Terms and Concepts
Structure
Function
Instrumental
Expressive
Equilibrium
The Benchmark Family
Deviant Behavior
Conformity
Innovation
Ritualism
Retreatism
Rebellion
Common Areas of Research and Application
Family Structure
Family Functions
Origin of the Family
Family Universality
Marital Structure
Working Women
Use by Other Fields of Study
CHAPTER THREE: FAMILY DEVELOPMENT THEORY

History
Primary Terms and Concepts
Family
Normative Events
Stages
Tasks
Timing
Change
Transitions

Common Areas of Research and Application
The Family Life Cycle
The Family Career
The Dynamics of Family Development
The Life Course Perspective
Carter and McGoldrick Model
The Systemic Family Development Model

Critique
Application
Sample Reading: "The Theoretical Importance of Love," William J. Goode

CHAPTER FOUR: FAMILY STRESS THEORY

History
Basic Assumptions
Stressor Events (A)
Resources (B)
Definition of the Situation (C)
Stress and Crisis (X)
Primary Terms and Concepts
Stressors
Normative Event
Resources
Crisis
Adaptation

Common Areas of Research and Application
Informal Family Care
Work and Family
Adolescent Coping
Nonnormative Stressors
Nonnormative Caregiving
Family Ambiguity

Critique
The Double A Factor: Stress and Change
The Double B Factor: Family Resources
The Double C Factor: Family Perception
The Double X Factor: Family Crisis and Adaption
Mundane Extreme Environmental Stress Model
Family Adjustment and Adaptation: Response (FAAR) Model

Application
Sample Reading: "Work-Family Stage and Satisfaction with Work-Family Balance," James M. White

CHAPTER FIVE: FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY

History
Basic Assumptions
System
Boundaries
Entropy
Family Rules
Feedback
Equilibrium
Circular Causality Versus Linear Causality
Identified Patient
Double Bind
Family Cohesion
Family Flexibility
Mutuality
Common Areas of Research and Application
Communication and Family Typologies
Couples and Family Therapy
Critique
Application
CHAPTER SIX: CONFLICT THEORY
History
Basic Assumptions
Primary Terms and Concepts
Competition
Conflict
Conflict Management
Conflict Resolution
Consensus
Negotiation and Bargaining
Power
Assertion and Aggression
Threats and Promises
Common Areas of Research and Application
Conflict Management
Divorce
Developmental Changes
Abuse
Critique
Application
Sample Reading: “Why Welfare?”, Karen Seccombe
CHAPTER SEVEN: SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY
History
Basic Assumptions
Primary Terms and Concepts
Rewards
Costs
Profit
Comparison Level
Comparison Level of Alternatives
Norm of Reciprocity
Rule of Distributive Justice, Norm of Fairness, and Equity
Common Areas of Research and Application
Romantic Issues
Relationship Issues
Gender Differences in Sexual Behavior
Decision Making
Critique
Application
Sample Reading: “Power and Dependence in Intimate Exchange,” Arnout van de Rijt and Michael W. Mucy
CHAPTER EIGHT: FEMINIST THEORY
History
Basic Assumptions
Primary Terms and Concepts
Sex
Gender
Categorization
Stratification
Privilege
Social Deconstruction
Social Discourse
Praxis
Common Areas of Research and Application
Division of Labor
Family Violence
Disordered Eating
Critique
Application
Sample Reading: “Feminist Visions for Transforming Families: Desire and Equality Then and Now,” Katherine R. Allen
CHAPTER NINE: BIOSOCIAL THEORY
History
Basic Assumptions
Primary Terms and Concepts
Adaptation
Fitness
Proximate Causes