



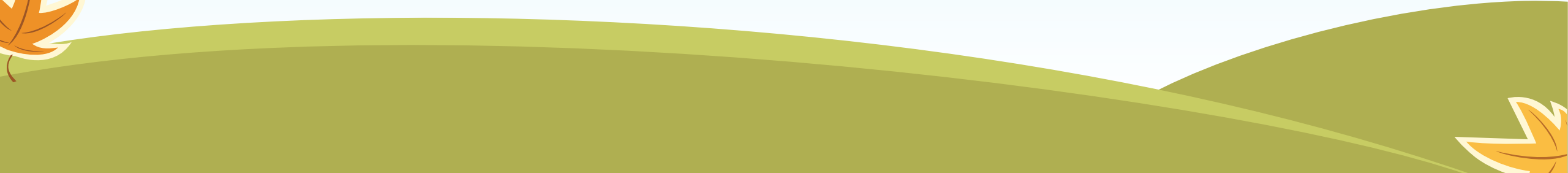


Code for check-in today:  
**first**









# Coming next...

- Discussion lead sign up on Moodle due today
  - First discussion forum will be opened on Moodle next week
  - Check-in next Tuesday
  - Reading Wiley chapter 1 and 3: Family trends around the world
  - Simulation prep: will be posted tomorrow or early next week
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# Reading tips (for Wiley chapters)

- You need to read. Period.
  - Approximately 40 pages per week – it actually is less than that
  - Pay special attention to the titles and subtitles
  - Underline or highlight key words & sentences, usually the arguments
  - Skim reading is a skillset
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# Learning tips in class

- You need to take notes: in short phrases, not sentences
  - You need to carefully listen to your instructor...
  - PPT slides will be posted for you
  - But you still need to take notes!
  - Write down important concepts and theories
  - Brief examples if it is hard to understand
  - Highlight questions
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The background is a light blue sky with a few falling leaves. On the left, there is a red brick barn with a yellow bell on its roof. A yellow school bus is driving on a winding road that curves through a green field. The road is marked with a dashed yellow line. In the foreground, there are several stylized trees with orange and yellow foliage. In the bottom right corner, there are several pumpkins. The overall theme is autumn or fall.

# Overview & Theories

02/03



# Warm up: Picture of Family





- Draw a picture of the family you grew up in
  - Draw another picture of your ideal family
  - Discuss with your neighbors: What are the differences between the above two?
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# Roadmap

- Basic concepts
- Sociological Theories about Family







What words come to your mind when you think  
of family?









# Family- descriptive definition

- Two or more people remain in an intimate relationship
  - Expect the relationship to last indefinitely
  - Live in the same household, pool the income and labor
  - Care for dependents IF there are dependents
  - Provide intimacy, emotional support and love
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# Related concepts

- Marriage: can be defined as a **socially and legally acknowledged** and approved **sexual union** between two individuals. When two people marry, they become kin to each other.
  - Kinship: refers to connections among individuals, typically established either through marriage or through the lines of descent that connect blood relatives.
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# Nuclear family vs. extended family

## Nuclear family

- Father, mother, children



## Extended family

- refers to the close relatives live either in the same household or in a close and continuous relationships with on another









# Sociological theories of families

- Functionalism
- Symbolic interactionalism
- Feminist perspective
- The queer theory







# Functionalism

- The functionalist perspective sees society as a set of social institutions that perform specific functions to ensure continuity and stability.
  - families perform important tasks that contribute to society's basic needs and help perpetuate the existence of major social institutions and practices.
  - Sociologists working in the functionalist tradition have regarded the nuclear family as fulfilling certain economic roles in societies. (e.g. farms or shops)
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# Functionalism- criticism

- With the rise of industrialization, families became less important as a unit of economic production and more focused on reproduction, child rearing, and socialization.
  - Functionalists regard the “conventional family” as the unit that best equipped to handle the demands of industrial society, with the husband adopting the “instrumental” role as breadwinner, and the wife assuming the emotional role in domestic settings.
  - This perspective is widely criticized as inadequate and outdated. Because this theory suggests that the division of household labor between men and women as something natural and unproblematic.
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# Activity: where did you learn the following?

- Wear cloth when you go to the public
  - Use a restroom when you need to have bowel movement
  - Wear shoes when you go out of the house
  - Eat with utensils
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# Symbolic interactionalism

- People interpret symbols whose meanings they have come to understand.
- Shared understandings of how people should act create the bases of social roles that people play.
- This perspective sees family as the primary socialization institution, where young children learn the cultural norms in the society.





# Symbolic interactionalism- criticism



- Overlook the impact from the bigger society (micro vs. macro)
- With the rising digital devices and social media, the role of family as the primary socialization institution start to be questioned



# Feminist perspective – a conflict approach

- Central concept: gender
- Experience of living in a family is different for women than it is for men.
- as we are assuming families is the vital source of solace and comfort, love and companionship, it can also be a site for exploitation, loneliness, and inequality.





# Feminist perspective-main arguments

unequal division of domestic labor

unequal share of care giving

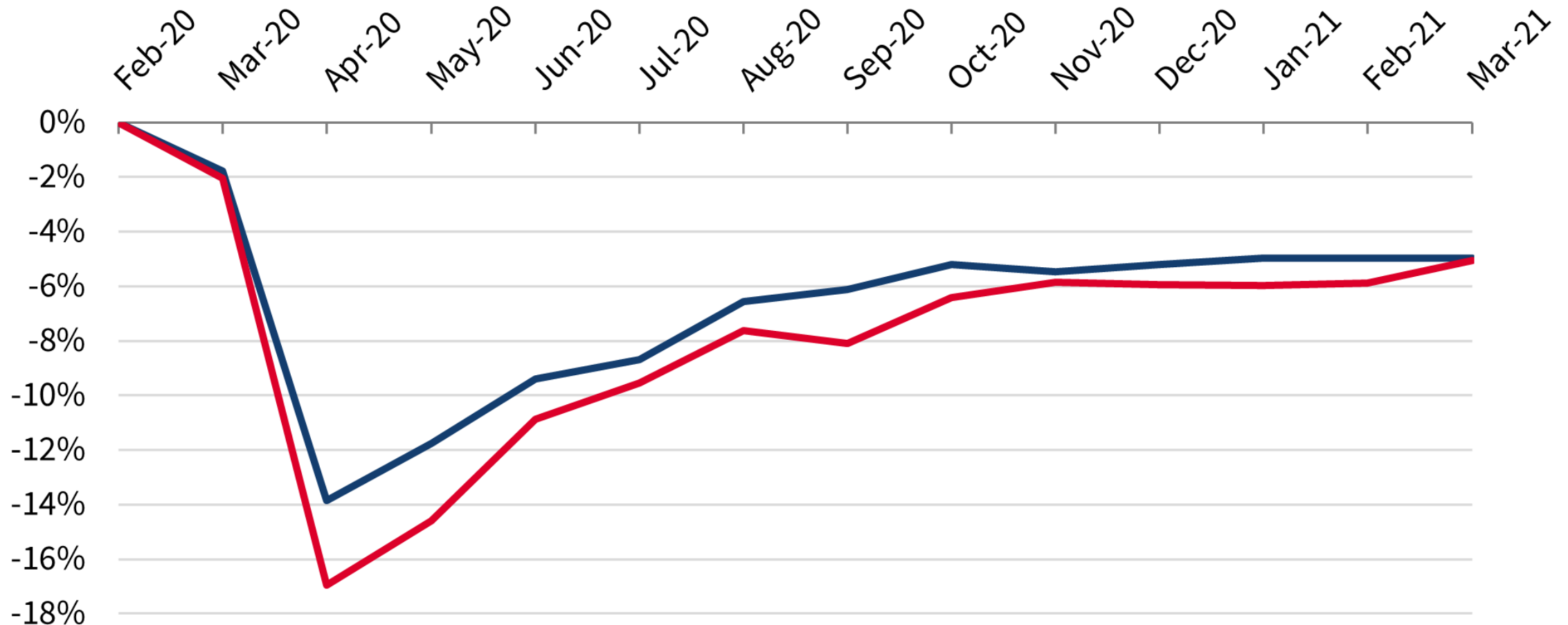
unequal power relationship within the families



# Change in Employment by Gender, Feb. 2020–Mar. 2021

— Men — Women

*Change in employment (percent)*

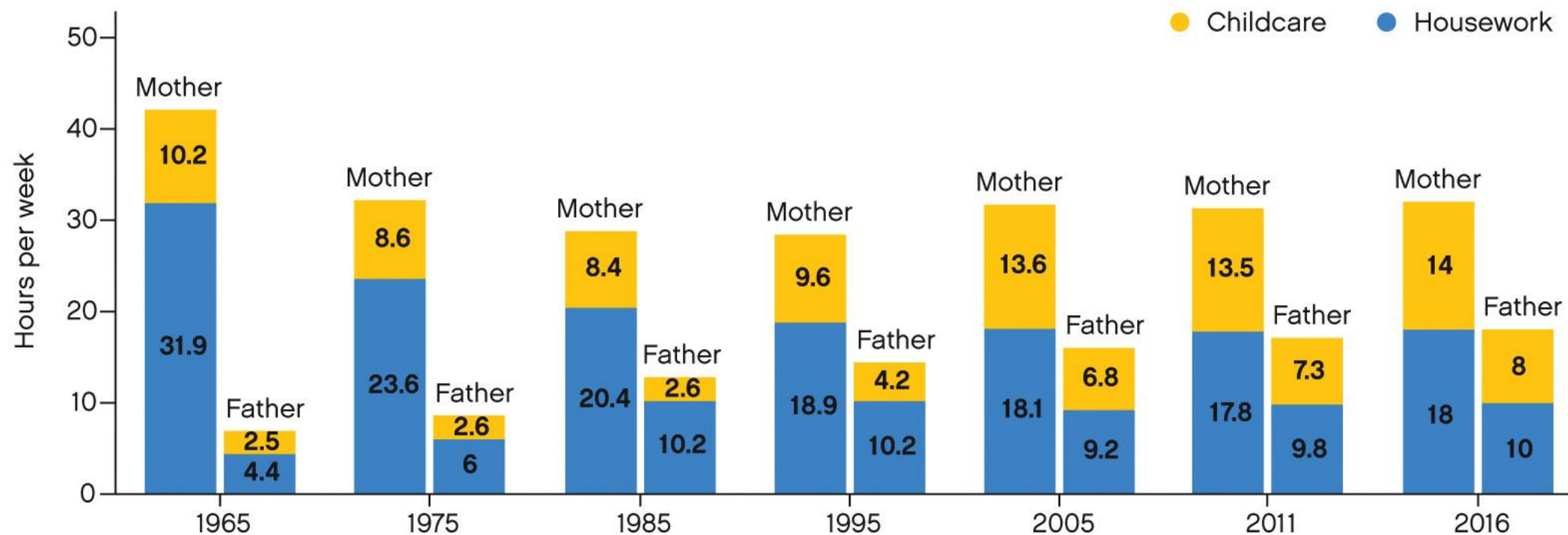


Note: Data are for ages 20+.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

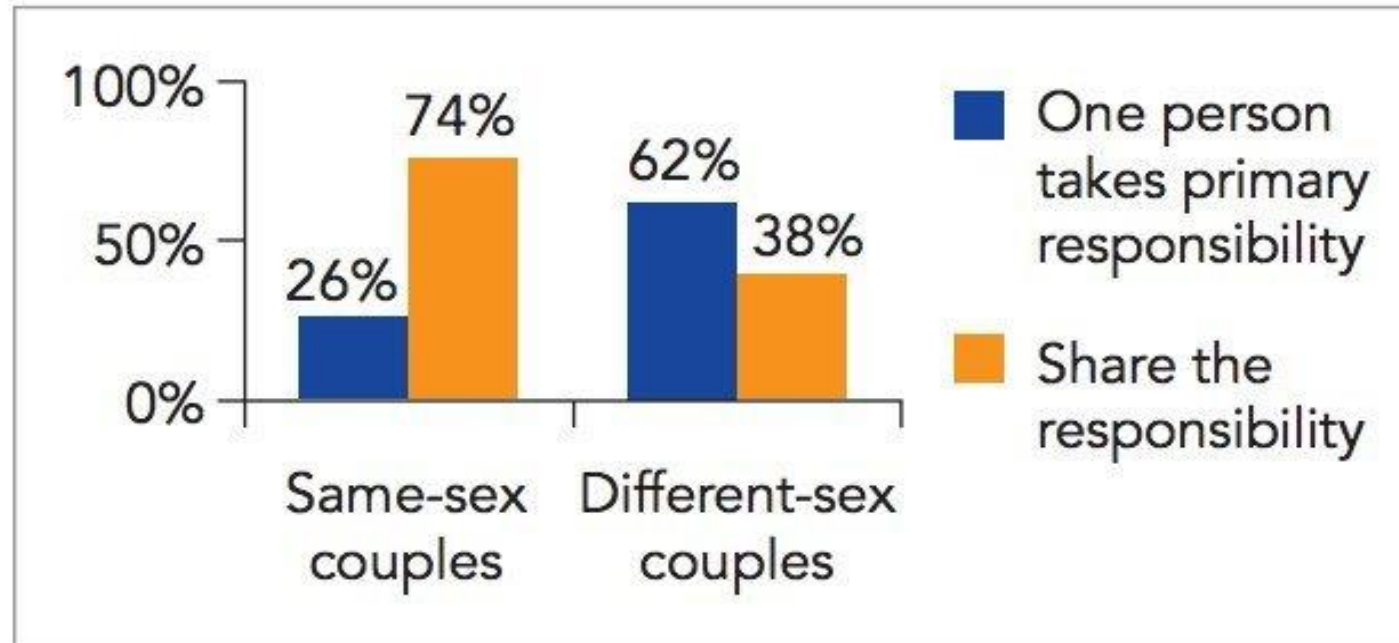


**FIGURE 12.3** Trends in Housework and Child Care since 1965



SOURCES: Pew Research Center, 2013; Parker & Livingston, 2018.

**Figure 6: Division of Routine Child Care by Couple Type**






Source: *Modern Families: Same- and Different-Sex Couples Negotiating at Home*, Families and Work Institute

Notes: N=52 couples with children where both members agree one or both of them takes responsibility for routine child care;  $p < .01$



## The Queer Theory Perspective



- **Queer theory:** The view that sexuality and gender are artificially organized into categories that reflect the power of heterosexual norms.
  - Questions common assumptions about sexual and gender identities, monogamy, and the definition of the family.
  - Distinguishes between cisgender individuals and transgender individuals.
  - **Cisgender people:** People who identify with the identity they were assigned at birth.
  - **Transgender people:** People who identify with a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth.
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# The Queer Theory

- The view that sexuality and gender are artificially organized into categories that reflect the power of heterosexual norms.
- Questions common assumptions about sexual and gender identities, monogamy, and the definition of the family.



# The Queer Theory (continue)

- Questions the definition of a family and the norm of **monogamy**.
- Queer theorists point to alternatives.
  - **Polyamory**: The practice of having more than one open romantic relationship at a time.
  - **Heteronormativity**: The idea that heterosexual relationships are the only normal and natural relationships.

