

# CODE FOR THE CHECK-IN TODAY

- love (all lower case)





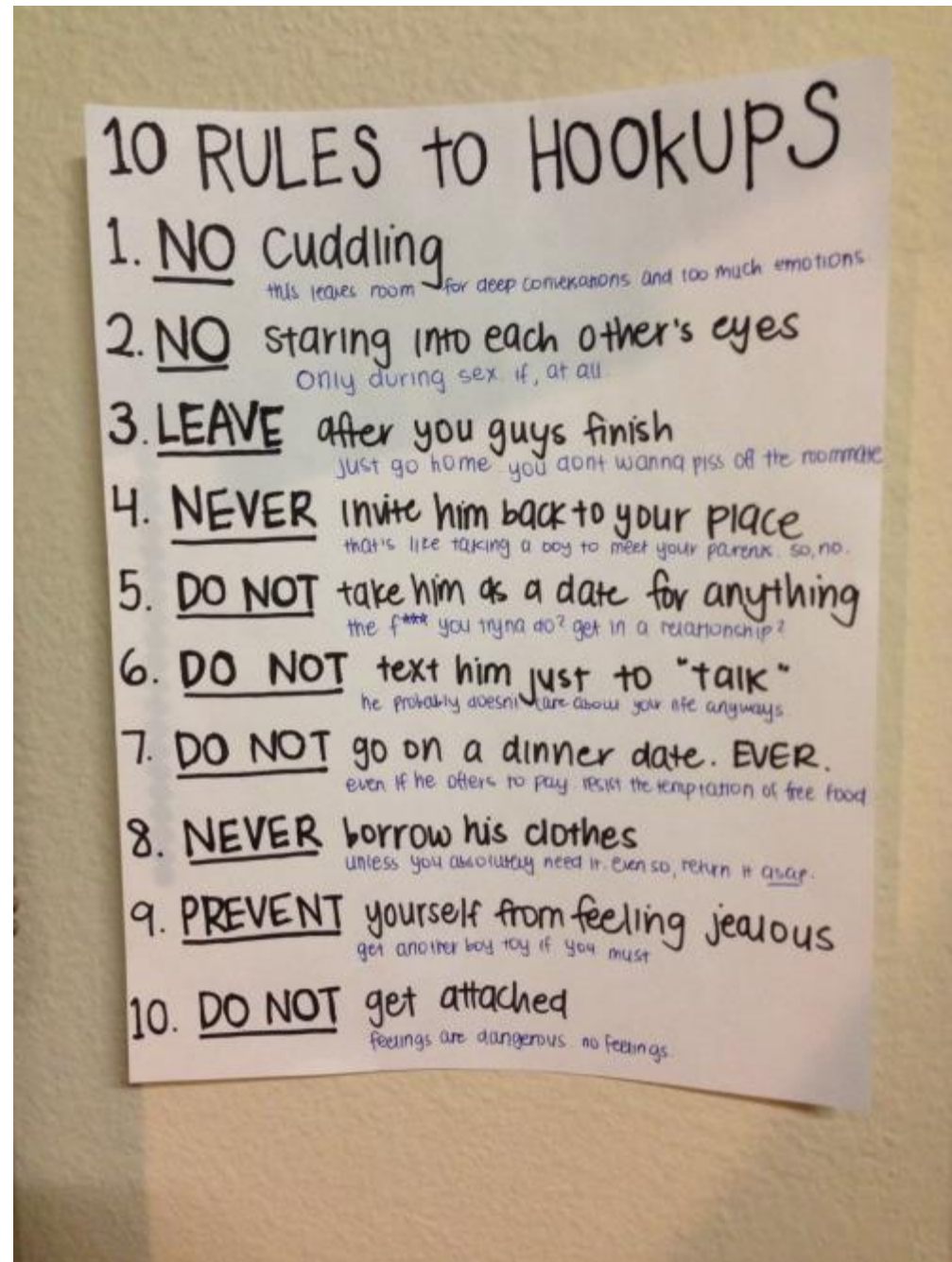
# COURTSHIP, COHABITATION, AND MARRIAGE

02/15



## WARM UP: COLLEGE HOOKUP

1. What is college hookup?
2. In what kind of scenario, they take place?
3. Why it is so common on college campus?
4. Problems?



## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Courtship and dating
- Cohabitation
- Marriage





# AMERICAN COURTSHIP ( BY 1800)



- ◉ **Courtship:** Publicly visible process with rules and restrictions through which young men and women find a partner to marry.
- Parents watched over and participated in the process.
- It was acceptable for casually acquainted young men and women to be seen together only at public events and in groups.



### Met its demise after 1900 (why?)

- Migration from rural areas to cities.
- Rise of industrial capitalism.
- Higher standards of living.
- Lengthening of adolescence.
- Increase in general mobility and range of choices.





# THE RISE AND FALL OF DATING



- ◉ Dating.
  - Placed courtship on an economic basis.
  - Shifted balance of power in courtship from women to men.
- ◉ Men had the money.
  - Shifted balance of power from parents to teenagers and young adults.



## THE RISE AND FALL OF DATING 2

- ◉ In the 1960s and 1970s, the dating system became less connected to marriage.
  - Sharp rise in premarital intercourse.
  - Cohabitation became common.
- ◉ The Internet has emerged as an important way in which individuals find partners.





## COHABITATION

- ◉ Sharing of a household by unmarried persons who have a sexual relationship.
- ◉ Began to increase sharply in the 1970s.
  - By early 2010s, 64 percent women aged 19 to 44 had cohabited.
- ◉ 2017.
  - 37 percent of different-sex unmarried couples had the children of one or both partners present.

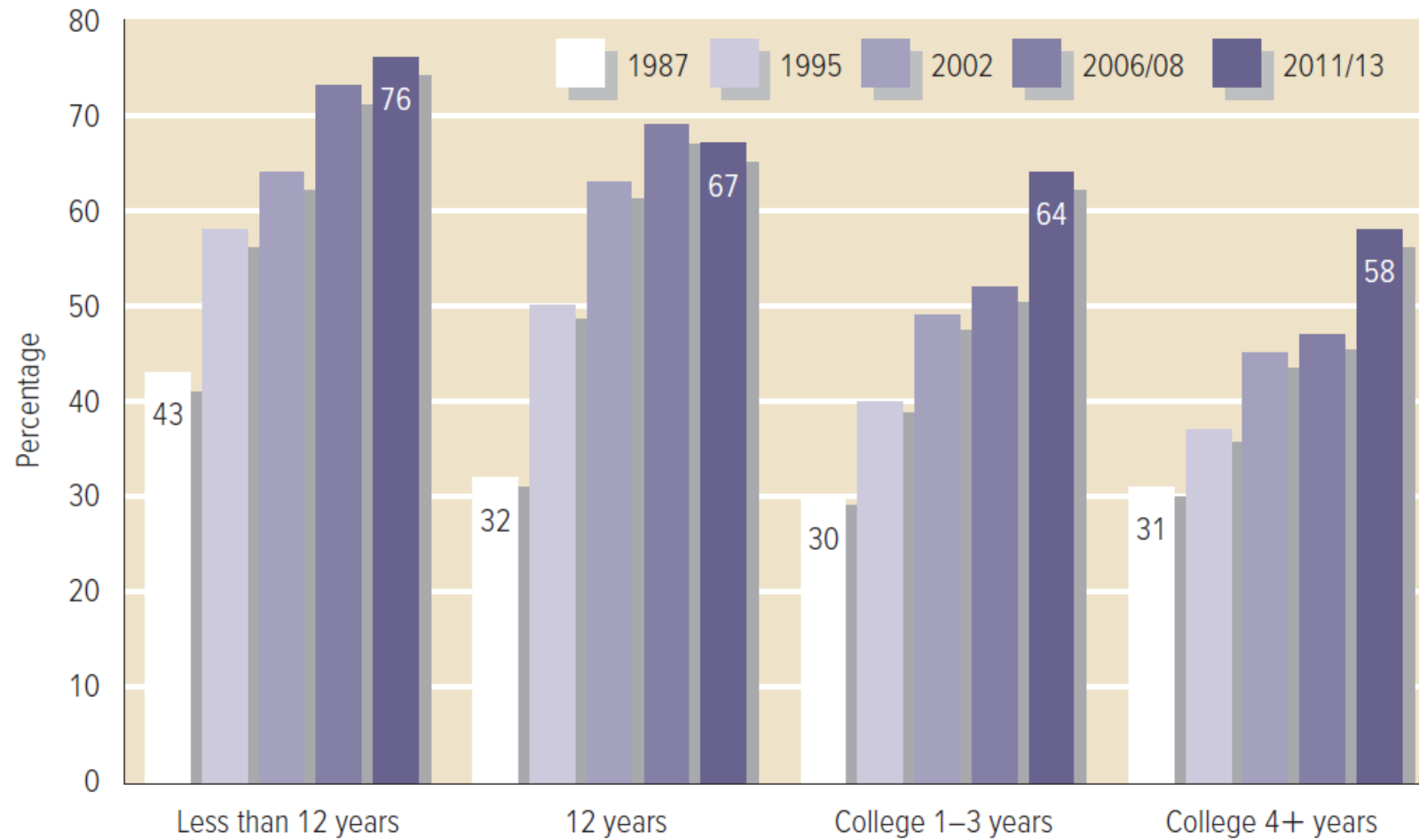


## QUESTION: WHY COHABITATE?

- Alternative way of being single.
- Testing ground for marriage.
- Alternative to marriage.



**FIGURE 7.2: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 19 TO 44 WHO HAD EVER COHABITED, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: 1987 TO 2011 TO 2013**



Source: Manning & Stykes, 2015.

[Access the text alternative for slide images](#)





## COHABITATION AND CLASS

- ◉ Cohabitation differs by social class.
  - The more education a woman has, the less likely she is to cohabit (why?)
  - College-educated adults use cohabitation as a step in the family-building process.
  - Moderately educated cohabitants may wish to eventually marry, but they do not think it is possible at the moment.
    - Common for cohabitation to occur after the woman becomes pregnant.
  - Least-educated cohabitants may opt to live in **serial cohabitation**.



# ACTIVITY:

## LEGAL RIGHTS OF COHABITING COUPLES

- ◉ What are the legal rights that the married couples have but cohabiting couples do not?
- ◉ Do you know any cohabiting couples? If so, have their relationships reached the point at which legal considerations would be meaningful to them?
- ◉ In your opinion, should couples who are cohabiting have the same legal rights as married couples? Why or why not?



## DISCUSSION: COHABITATION & DIVORCE

- Research shows that couples who have cohabited before have a higher divorce rate.
- Children who have parents that had cohabiting history tend to have higher divorce rate in later life.
- Why?





## MARRIAGE: FROM INSTITUTION TO COMPANIONSHIP

- ◉ Family life in preindustrial Western nations was guided more by law and custom than by affection and emotional stimulation.
- Parents, especially fathers, played a greater role in spouse selection.
- ◉ Modest standard of living made the family's subsistence a higher priority than personal development.



## THE INSTITUTIONAL MARRIAGE

- ◉ Marriage with emphasis on male authority, duty, and conformity to social norms.
- ◉ Romantic love wasn't necessary or even desirable.



## THE COMPANIONATE MARRIAGE

- ◉ Marriage with emphasis on affection, friendship, and sexual gratification.
- ◉ Single-earner and breadwinner–homemaker marriages.
  - Spouses were supposed to be each other's companions.
    - Friends and lovers.
  - Husband's authority was lessened.
  - More women were educated.





## FROM COMPANIONSHIP TO INDIVIDUALIZATION

- ◉ Companionate marriage reached its peak at midcentury.
  - Couples found meaning in successful performance of their social roles.
  - Husbands were workers, and wives created a home.
- ◉ By the mid-1960s, changes occurred.
  - Roles became more flexible and open to negotiation.
  - Shift in satisfaction from companionship marriage model.



## TOWARD THE INDIVIDUALISTIC MARRIAGE

- ◉ **Individualistic marriage:** Marriage with emphasis on self-development, flexible roles, and open communication.
- ◉ People used internal criteria including:
  - Job satisfaction.
  - Emotional gratification from marriage.
  - Sexual gratification.
  - Opportunities for growth as an individual.
- ◉ Obligations to others was less central.



## CURRENT CONTEXT OF MARRIAGE

- ◉ Freedom of choice in how to live one's life.
- ◉ Change in nature of rewards that people seek through marriage and other close relationships.
- ◉ People seek personal growth or self-development.
  - Deeper intimacy.
  - More open communication.
- ◉ Social norms about family and personal life count for less than they did in the period of companionate marriage.





## RECAP: WHY DO PEOPLE STILL MARRY?

- ◉ Majority of people eventually marry.
- ◉ Capstone experience.
  - Practical importance of marriage has declined, but its symbolic importance has increased.
  - Marriage.
    - Has evolved from a marker of conformity to a marker of prestige.
    - Is a status young couples build up to.
    - Comes later in the course of one's life.



## DISCUSSION: IS MARRIAGE GOOD FOR YOU?

- ⦿ Research shows that married people tend to live longer and healthier. Can you explain why?
- ⦿ Do you have second thoughts about the above statement?



**TABLE 7.1: CHANGES IN UNION FORMATION SINCE THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY <sup>1</sup>**

Criteria	1950s	1990s
When do sexual relations begin?	For a majority of women and many men, sexual relations began only after engagement or marriage.	Sexual relations typically begin many years before a union is formed.
What happens when premarital pregnancies occur?	Usually led to a hasty marriage because childbearing outside of marriage was highly stigmatized.	Much less likely to lead to marriage because childbearing outside of marriage is more acceptable.
Who cohabits?	Cohabitation is common only among the poor; it is not considered respectable among the nonpoor.	Most young adults will cohabit before they marry. It has become an important part of the process of finding a marital partner.





**TABLE 7.1: CHANGES IN UNION FORMATION SINCE THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY <sup>2</sup>**

Criteria	1950s	1990s
Who marries and when?	About 95 percent of whites and almost 90 percent of blacks married; average age at marriage was younger than in any other decade.	About 80 percent of whites will marry, and about half of blacks will marry. Typical ages at marriage are about seven years older than in the 1950s.
What is the economic bargain?	Men typically exchanged their earning power for women's housework and child-rearing effort. Middle-class and working-class married women rarely worked outside the home.	Men and women typically pool their earnings and achieve economies of scale (that is, only one mortgage to pay for). Women with higher earning potential are more likely to marry.
What is the cultural expectation?	Companionship and satisfaction through playing the roles of spouse and parent.	Ongoing self-development, intimacy, and communication.

