CHAPTER 18

PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATE ADULTHOOD
Social Development

Gender Roles

– Role Discontinuity: Abrupt and disruptive change caused by conflicts among one’s various roles in life.

• Crossover: Older men and women become more like each other
Sexuality

Widowhood: Women 80 years, men 73 years.
Impotency
Prostate Cancer
The Elderly and Their Families

- Communication and style of interaction
- Lifestyle choice and habits
- Parenting practices and values
- Religion, ideology and politics
- Work habits
- Standards of household maintenance
- Care of elderly parents
- The changing role of the grandparent
The Older Worker

Performance
Retirement
  – Requires changing the habits of an adult lifetime
  – More than 11 percent are employed
  – Harder on males than females
Phase of Retirement

- Pre-retirement: positive, begin to separate themselves emotionally from their job, fantasize about retired life
- Honeymoon: Separated from job, try to fulfill pre-retirement fantasies
- Disenchantment: Honeymoon is over, retirement structure fails, sad, depressed
- Reorientation: rebuild a new structure
- Stability: happy with themselves & family
- Termination: Unhappy, depend on family, can’t take care of themselves
Effects of Aging on Personal Development

The Committee on Human Development

– People in their 50’s become more interested in their “inner selves”
– Perception of environmental control changes
– Emotional energy declines with age
– Gender-role reversals occur
– Age status (society’s expectations about what is normal) becomes more rigid with development
Integrity versus Despair

- Integrity: Feel their lives have been well spent
- Despair: Feel as though they have made bad decisions, or have not made any meaningful decisions at all