Unit 7 Key Terms

**Biological aging, or senescence:** The genetic decline of organs and systems (e.g., skeletal or nervous).

**Dualistic thinking:** Thinking that everything (values, information, and situations) is divided into right and wrong or good and bad.

**Epistemic cognition:** The process of exploring our method for forming beliefs and ideas.

**Fantasy period:** The stage during early and middle childhood at which children fantasize about different career options.

**Postformal thought:** The stage beyond Piaget’s formal operational cognitive stage related to an adult’s ability to use abstraction and experience in decision making.

**Pragmatic thought:** Adults’ ability to use logic as a tool in problem solving.

**Realistic period:** The stage of career development for adolescents and adults in their early twenties when they weigh career decisions according to their skills and interest.

**Relativistic thought:** The stage of career development for children and adolescents age 11-16 years when they relate careers to their interests and begin to research possibilities.

**Cohabitation:** The lifestyle of two unmarried adults living together and have a sexually intimate relationship.

**Companionate love:** The kind of love that is trusting, affectionate, and relates to care-giving.

**Egalitarian marriage:** A marriage of equal partners who share power and authority.

**Emerging adulthood:** The period of transition between adolescence and adulthood from late teens to early twenties.

**Family life cycle:** The sequence of cycles of family development; marriage, bearing and rearing children, and then the children marry.

**Intimacy vs. isolation:** The stage of Erikson’s psychosocial development that examines a young adult’s ego crisis of establishing intimate friendships and dating relationships.
**Life structure:** One of the key concepts of Levinson’s theory of development that describes the development of different types of relationships with significant others.

**Loneliness:** The difference between the relationships that exist in our lives and the ones that we would like to have.

**Social clock:** The age-related expectations of adults, such as getting a first job, getting married, bearing children, and buying a home.

**Triangular theory of love:** Sternberg’s theory that describes the development of the ability to love into three parts: intimacy, passion, and commitment.