

THE LIFE CYCLE

Introduction:

1. Events in historical context [evolution = pseudohistorical]
2. Cyclical processes

(Cf. Life Cycle of American Family)

rites of passage, by Arnold Van Gennep

I. BIRTH RITES

A. Admitting new members

B. THREE PHASES [as with other rites]:

1. Separation
2. Transition
3. Incorporation
 - (1) identity
 - (2) social status

II. INITIATION RITES

1. Separation
2. Transition
 - (1) religious maturity
 - (2) legal maturity

*[Margaret Mead, "Coming of Age in Samoa"]
3. Incorporation

III. MATING AND MARRIAGE RITES

A. Mating

- 1. Mating/Marriage = Judeo-Christian-Muslim**
- 2. Biological process of adolescence**

B. Marriage

- 1. Social status assigning new roles**
- 2. Functions as:**
 - (1) alliance**
 - (2) announcement**
 - (3) adjustment**

***[A. R. Radcliffe-Brown "Andaman Islanders"]**

IV. DEATH RITES [FUNERAL RITUALS]

A. Fives Stages of Terminal Illness:

- 1. Denial**
- 2. Anger**
- 3. Bargaining**
- 4. Depression**
- 5. Acceptance**

B. Functions of rites:

- 1. Disposal of body & preparation of spirit**
- 2. Channel grief & comfort/support for living**
- 3. Restore balance in social relations**
- 4. Explanation for death**

***[Early American Burials]**

Summary