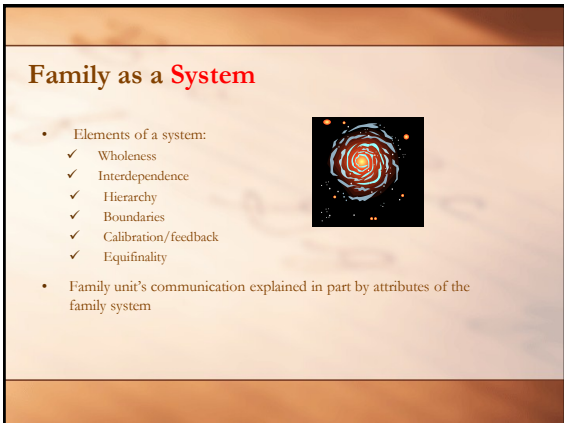




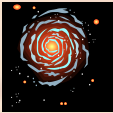
Lifespan Family Communication


Shaw 11, Pecchioni 4-5



Family as a System

- Elements of a system:
 - ✓ Wholeness
 - ✓ Interdependence
 - ✓ Hierarchy
 - ✓ Boundaries
 - ✓ Calibration/feedback
 - ✓ Equifinality
- Family unit's communication explained in part by attributes of the family system





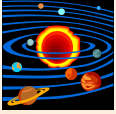
Family as Developing System

- Development occurs at multiple levels and at different pacing
- Development typically proceeds from a state of being more global/disorganized to more focused/organized
- Individual family member development and family unit development are interconnected
- Family Complexity as an important developmental factor: Integration (Connectedness) and Differentiation (Individuality) Complex families are high in both integration and differentiation
- Family unit's communication explained in part by communication developmental processes

See, Socha, 1999

Summary:

- Family is a biological, communicative system that develops over time.
- Task of building theories of communication in family units is similar to theorizing of communication in groups: Family is our first human group.



Family Survival and Flourishing

- "Survival" of family system requires?
 - Communication about obtaining food, water, and shelter
 - Communication about safety and security
 - Communication about reproduction (socio-biology)
 - Communication about income
 - Communication of social support (in times of crisis and emergency)
 - Warnings, risk messages, evacuation notices, messages about health and health problems, and more
- What does a family require to "flourish"
 - [PERMA](#) Model (Seligman, 2011)

Designing Families (Scanzoni, 2000)

Six Principles for "New" Family Policy

1. A balance of freedom with responsibility
2. Special attention to women's interests
3. Personal and political empowerment for women, men, and children alike
4. Participation in dialogic, or democratic decision making
5. Positive welfare support for both advantaged and disadvantaged households
6. The direct confrontation of violence
