

Soc 3501
Book Review Final Paper
Outline
Trina Smith

Directions: The following is a suggested outline of how to write your final paper. Though you do not have to follow the sections and outline I suggest, you must include all the information I request in each section. In other words, if a different outline or sections make sense to you, you can use them but you must include the information I ask for here. Paper should be around 10 pages.

** Elements of this assignment were utilized from the work of both Professor Erin Kelly (assignments used in her Soc of the Family Class) and Barbara Keating (assignment in ASA teaching guide on Soc of the Family).

Introduction (5 points):

Introduce your book and topic here.

What book are you reviewing?

Why are you interested in studying this topic?

Why did you do the book review option?

Give a general statement on how your topic and book relates to sociological ideas and concepts.

Summary of Book (10 points)

Give a brief summary of the book. Include:

- a) the author's main argument(s) and conclusion(s)
- b) the author's methods:
 1. what method did they use to obtain their data (i.e. surveys, interviews, ethnography, historical document analysis, etc).
 2. who or what is the aim of their study (i.e. single mothers, children of divorced parents, reasons why divorce occurs, etc)
 3. who or what did they study to make their conclusions (i.e. single moms in a certain town; a national representative sample of all Americans, etc).

Analysis of Book related to course content (20 points):

How did the course material and the book complement each other? How did they work together to contribute to your understanding of the issue involved. Do not limit your analysis to one topic in the course. For example, books on divorce could also be related to gender roles, the history of families, and family-work links. Write this section from a sociological perspective. How did the book relate family and society through the issue of concern? According to the arguments the book makes, how do you think society can better deal with this family issue? What kind of impact do you think this issue has on families and society as a whole?

Sociological Evaluation (30 points)

- a) Do you agree with the author(s)'s conclusions and arguments? Why or Why not?
- b) Are their conclusions and arguments fair in relation to the data they collected and the methods they used? Why or why not?
- c) Who do the authors say their results can apply to? In your own assessment, do you agree? What families or type of families do you think the results can apply to?
- d) What factors do you think were missing from the book?
 - 1. For example, what type of families were not studied? How do you think including these type of families would change the conclusions?
 - 2. What concepts or other ideas do you think were missing from the book? Why or why not do you think adding these would change the conclusions of the book? (i.e. if the book is discussing work and family links and they only interviewed women, how do you think including men's perceptions would have changed things? Or this may be a concept in general you think is missing).

Personal Reaction (5 points):

- a) Did you like the book? Why or why not?
- b) Who might you recommend the book to?
- c) Optional: How do your experiences mesh with the book?

Conclusion: (20 points)

- 1. What do you conclude from your analysis of the book?
- 2. What did you learn about families?
- 3. Look back at the course objectives on the syllabus. How did your analysis of this book help you think and be informed about these?

Here are the objectives from the syllabus:

- 1. Understand why the term sociology of families is a better term than sociology of the family.
- 2. Understand the diversity and similarities of families in our society, both globally and locally.
- 3. Understand the social location and history of their own families better.
- 4. Understand that the family is a social institution and its effects.
- 5. Understand that the family is a gendered institution
- 6. Understand the diversity of family forms and different definitions of family.
- 7. Have a sociologically informed answer to the question of why the family is seen as a fundamental unit to society.

Grammar, Organization, Citations, etc: (10 points)

Is the paper organized? Does it flow well?

Did the student use sections?

How is the grammar?

Did they cite in ASA format?

Did they include a bibliography?