

Developed by Trina Smith ([smit1603@umn.edu](mailto:smit1603@umn.edu))  
Please cite appropriately if used.

**Soc 3501**  
**International Document Final Paper**  
**Outline**

**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.

**Introduction: (10 points)**

Why did you choose to do the international research option?

Which international document did you look at?

What countries did you choose to look at?

Why did you choose these countries?

Give a general statement on how your research with this option relates to sociological ideas and concepts.

**Summary of International Document: (30 points)**

Read over and analyze the whole document. From your analysis, answer these questions. While you are answering these questions, relate them back to the course in terms of our readings, lectures, and discussions.

- a) How are families characterized in the document?
  1. What is their importance to society according to the document?
  2. If the document does not specifically state reasons why they are important, conclude from your reading and analysis of the document, why you think the document might say this?
- b) How are individual family members characterized in the document?
  1. Think about issues of power.
  2. What are their roles in the family according to the document?
- c) What other actors are mentioned that influence the family?
  1. How are they characterized?
  2. Are they positive or negative influences according to the document?
- d) How do you think the document defines “family”?
  1. Relate this to themes, ideas, and concepts from the course

**Summary and Comparison of Country Reports: (30 points)**

For each country read at least two reports made by that country to the UN committee and at least one report back from the UN committee to the country.

1. Summarize this exchange for each country.
2. How do you think the family is defined by each country?
3. How does the UN define families in regards to its response to the countries' reports?
4. Do you think the UN agrees with the way the countries define families?
  - a) What does the UN find problematic?
  - b) What do they like or are happy with in terms of families in each country?
  - c) Do you think the UN favors one country? Why or why not?
5. Add other information that comes from your analysis and comparison that relates to families.
6. Relate course concepts, readings, discussions, and lectures within this discussion.

**Conclusion: (20 points)**

1. What do you conclude from your analysis?
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?