

Sociology the family

[Sociology](#), [Feminism](#)



Sociology — The Family Essay Plan Describe and evaluate the following views of the family; * Functionalist * Marxist * Feminist * Interactionist Compare these views making reference to the changing nature of family structures, gender roles and family patterns. Introduction Introduce and explain the concept of family in sociology. What is the family? What is the purpose or function of a family? Briefly mention the perspectives which are you going to discuss and the main differences when viewing the family. Main Body You need to describe and evaluate all four perspectives. In addition you should make comparisons between the perspectives throughout. Remember to reference any theorists which you may discuss and that you NEED to include criticisms of each perspective. For each perspective you should give:

- * A basic overview/ main principles of theory
- * Any specific examples or theories which provide evidence to support the main principles
- * A comparison between this perspective and others (where relevant).
- * Evaluation of perspective — strengths and weaknesses.

General Concepts to cover:

- * Purpose of the socialisation process
- * Function of norms and values
- * Conjugal roles
- * Changing family patterns — i. e. what is normal now compared to previous times?

Social Stability/ Social order/ Social solidarity

Concepts specific to perspectives: Macro scale Functionalism Consensus theory Institutions benefit the ruling class Macro scale Zaretsky — How the family serves the needs of capitalism Engels — The development of the nuclear family Capitalism Conflict theory Marxism Talcott Parsons — Functions of family, complimentary roles. George Murdock — Universal Family Conclusion Summarise the information you have outlined. What are the major themes you have discovered through writing this essay? Is family

one specific institution with set roles and boundaries or is it an evolving and developing concept that changes over time? Are any of the theories more relevant or useful than others? You MUST include a reference list!! Symbols, meanings, roles and scripts Culture is reproduced Culture Takes all types of families into account David Clark — different types of marriage Berger and keller — roles within a marriage Look at what family life is ACTUALLY like rather what assume. Micro scale — no generalisation Interactionism Domestic violence Oppressive nature of the roles in the family Socially constructed gender distinctions The different types of feminism Patriarchy Conflict theory Feminism