

Table 1.2**Summary of sociological perspectives: A general approach to examining social problems**

	Functionalist	Conflict/Feminist	Interactionist
Level of analysis	Macro	Macro	Micro
Assumptions about society	<p>Order.</p> <p>Society is held together by a set of social institutions, each of which has a specific function in society.</p>	<p>Conflict.</p> <p>Society is held together by power and coercion.</p> <p>Conflict and inequality are inherent in the social structure.</p>	<p>Interaction.</p> <p>Society is created through social interaction.</p>
Questions asked about social problems	<p>How does the problem originate from the social structure?</p> <p>How does the problem reflect changes among social institutions and structures?</p> <p>What are the functions and dysfunctions of the problem?</p>	<p>How does the problem originate from the competition between groups and from the social structure itself?</p> <p>What groups are in competition and why?</p>	<p>How is the problem socially constructed and defined?</p> <p>How is problem behavior learned through interaction?</p> <p>How is the problem labeled by those concerned about it?</p>