



Department of Sociology & Social Work
Sociology 310 - Criminology
3 units

Fall 2017

Meeting days: Tuesday	Instructor: Professor Rafael da Silva
Meeting times: 6:00- 8:45PM	E-mail: rdasilva@pointloma.edu (official form of communication)
Meeting location: RH 108	Final Exam: 12/12

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically evaluate social and cultural patterns, and constructively engage as agents of hope.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 310 is aimed at helping students to develop an understanding of crime and criminal behavior, the role of law, and efforts at prevention and control. The class will focus primarily on applying and exploring theoretical considerations, and will secondarily address empirical patterns and critical issues in the U.S. and abroad.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand crime and criminal justice as part of broader social patterns, both theoretically and empirically.
- Describe, discuss, and compare various categories of criminality.
- Compare and contrast theoretical perspectives used in Criminology and Sociology.
- Discuss contemporary approaches to “fighting” crime, and the opportunities as well as limitations of sociological knowledge and Christian faith in advancing such efforts.
- Synthesize knowledge of the research methods, values, and ethics integrated into Criminology theories.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication as it relates to Criminology.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 14 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Required Text: Barkan, Steve E. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*, 6th Edition. 2014. New Jersey: Pearson. ISBN-10: 0133458997 • ISBN-13: 9780133458992

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1 – 9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Course IntroductionReview Chap 1: Criminology & Sociological Perspective (1)	Read Chapter 1
Week 2 – 9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem (2)	Read Chapter 2 Submit Weekly Reports #1,2
Week 3 – 9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior (3)Victims and Victimization (4)	Read Chapters 3 & 4 Submit Weekly Report #3
Week 4 – 9/26	FILM / REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT	
Week 5 – 10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Classical and Neoclassical Perspectives (5)Violent Crime: Homicide, Assault, and Robbery (10)	Read Chapters 5 & 10 Submit Weekly Report #4
Week 6 – 10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biological and Psychological Explanations (6)Violence Against Women (11)	Read Chapters 6 & 11 Submit Weekly Report #5 Essay topic due
Week 7 – 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure (7)Property Crime and Fraud (12)	Read Chapters 7 & 12 Submit Weekly Report #6
Week 8 – 10/24	MIDTERM	
Week 9 – 10/31	FILM / REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT	
Week 10 – 11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process (8)White-Collar and Organized Crime (13)	Read Chapters 8 & 13 Submit Weekly Report #7 Essay Due
Week 11 – 11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives (9)Political Crime (14)	Read Chapters 9 & 14 Submit Weekly Report #8
Week 12 – 11/21	FILM / REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT	
Week 13 – 11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consensual Crime (15)Policing: Crime Control in a Democratic Society (16)	Read Chapters 15 & 16 Submit Weekly Report #9
Week 14 – 12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prosecution and Punishment (17)How Can We Reduce Crime? (18)	Read Chapters 17 & 18 Submit Weekly Report #10

12/12	FINAL EXAM	
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- **REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS (15 Pts)** – Throughout the semester, handouts, articles, videos and films will be used to supplement reading, lecture, and discussion materials. Students will be required to write a 250 word critical summary of the content covered during these supplemental activities via Canvas by the next class meeting. Expect 3-5 of these during the semester.
- **WEEKLY REPORTS (15 Pts):** Students must write a paragraph describing the most important concept they learned, and the “muddiest” (least clear) point from the weekly assigned readings. This paragraph must be submitted via Canvas the day prior to the class meeting (Monday) by 10:00pm PST.
- **GROUP FACILITATION (15 Pts):** Each student will help facilitate a class discussion primarily (but not exclusively) based on the content of our main text. Students will be placed in groups of three, and will work together for a period of 1.5 to 2 hours. The focus will be on promoting critical dialogue and not lecturing. Facilitation groups must demonstrate a grasp of the topic and readings, and have an outline of what they plan to accomplish during their period. A copy of this outline should be provided to the professor prior to the facilitation.

Breakdown of facilitation period:

- 1/3 of the allotted time should be spent summarizing the main points of the reading.
- 1/3 of the allotted time should be spent providing additional content acquired from outside sources which are pertinent to the main topics of the reading. When possible, special attention should be given to local crime and criminal justice issues.
- 1/3 of the allotted time should be spent asking questions to promote active participation of all students.

Students will be evaluated on: Preparation (6 pts), Discussion techniques (3 pts), Time usage (3 pts), and Communication skills (3 pts).

Note: Since the participation of the entire class is instrumental for successful discussions, facilitation points will be deducted if students do not attend their peers’ facilitation periods.

- **THEORY ESSAY (30 Pts):** Each student will write one essay during the semester. The essay must be 7-8 pages long (in addition to Reference and Cover pages), with 1 inch margins, 12 point font, double spaced and formatted in MLA or APA style. Students are required to apply theories, concepts, and ideas of Criminology to a crime or criminal justice issue that is currently being debated on the national or international media circuit.

Students may not use any portion of essays written for other classes.

- Step 1: Select a crime or criminal justice issue along with the theories that you plan to use for your analysis, and submit your proposal for approval by October 10th.
- Step 2: Research the crime issue that you have selected.
- Step 3: Apply theories, concepts and ideas of criminology to your research (basically explain why these crime related issues possibly occur from a theoretical perspective)
- Step 4: Support your claims with a minimum of two scholarly sources (no Wikipedia) in addition to the course textbook.

- **EXAMS (30 Pts):** There will be two exams, one mid-term and one final, mostly including short answer questions. No make-up exams will be given. However, under extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, serious illness, etc.) a make-up exam may be arranged.
- **EXTRA CREDIT:** The available point total for the semester adds up to 105. FIVE of these will be considered extra credit. No other extra credit opportunity will be provided.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment distribution by percentage:	Grade scale:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection Assignments 15% • Weekly Reports 15% • Group Facilitation 15% • Theory Essay 30% • Midterm Exam 15% • Final Exam 15% 	A = 93-100 A- = 92-90 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82 C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76 C- = 70-72 D+ = 67-69 D = 63-66 D- = 60-62 F = 0-59

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at

DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.