



Department of Sociology & Social Work
SOC 476-1 Senior Seminar in Sociology
3 Units

Fall 2018

Meeting day: Wednesday	Instructor title and name: Daniel Davis
Meeting times: 3:00 – 5:45 pm	Phone: 707-362-0186 (voicemail only)
Meeting location: Rohr Hall 112	E-mail: danieldavis@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: 12/12/18 3:00 – 5:45 pm	Office location and hours: Rohr Hall #110, after class or by apt.

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

Senior Seminar is a required course for sociology majors, including those with a criminal justice concentration. The Senior Seminar is a capstone course, providing opportunity to integrate understanding of sociology with personal and professional goals. During this course students will develop and write an empirical research paper, their senior thesis. Students will also be administered standardized examinations to track overall collegiate learning as well as content-specific sociology learning (and an additional assessment for students with a criminal justice concentration). Students will also spend time preparing to pursue a chosen career path or attend postgraduate education. This course is a unique blend of academic rigor, personal reflection, and career preparation.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- Shown evidence of high-quality empirical writing in sociology.
- Demonstrated quantitative literacy and ability to work with data and statistics.
- Developed a plan for approaching careers and/or graduate school.
- Achieved greater professionalization and job-seeking skills.
- Formulated a personal philosophy of work and vocation.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE PRESENTED	CLASS CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
8/29	Introduction and Overview of Course	Syllabus
9/5	Senior Thesis Clinic	
9/12	Senior Thesis Clinic	
9/19	Senior Thesis Clinic	
9/26	Senior Thesis Clinic	
10/3	ETS Senior Proficiency Profile	Senior Thesis Due
10/10	ETS Sociology Major Field Test	
10/17	Criminal Justice Concentration Test	
10/24	LinkedIn, Informational Interviewing, & Job Shadowing	LinkedIn Profile
10/31	The One Week Job (watch in class)	
11/7	Vocational Philosophies and Debates	
11/14	Underemployment, Millennials, and the New Economy	Informational Interviews
11/21	<i>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</i>	
11/28	Sharing Vocational Philosophies and Working on Plans	Vocational Philosophy
12/5	Sharing Career and Graduate School Plans	Action Plan & Timeline
12/12	<i>Finals Week</i>	

EXTRA CREDIT ACTIVITIES

A maximum of 5 points of extra credit can be awarded for completion of the following professionalization activities. Evidence of completion must be turned in (e.g. registration email, signed confirmation from a career counselor, email confirmations). Completion is worth 1 point for each activity, get advance permission before repeating the same one for additional points:

- Two additional informational interviews, or 6 hours of job shadowing
- Taking a standardized test (e.g. GRE, MCAT, LSAT) or related preparatory course during this semester
- Submitting a professionally relevant job application or graduate school application
- Meeting 1-on-1 with a career counselor at the Office of Strengths and Vocation (OSV)
- Attending a career fair or related OSV event during this semester
- Creation of a high-quality professional website or digital portfolio (shared with class for feedback)

CAREER BOOK PRESENTATION

While there is no official course textbook, you are expected to read one book on careers, vocation, or professionalization and summarize it to the class along with your key takeaways and critiques. Upload your PowerPoint slides to Canvas the day you present. The following are examples of the kinds of books recommended for this assignment, but you may negotiate a different one that better fits your interests:

- *What Color is Your Parachute? 2018: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*, by Richard Bolles (2018)
- *There is Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow*, by Jeffrey Selingo (2016)
- *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, by Angela Duckworth (2016)
- *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker Palmer (1999)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS (All Assignments Due on Canvas)

Senior Thesis: You will significantly improve upon the paper you wrote for Research Methods, strengthening the literature review, analysis, results, and overall writing. For those who do not have a paper from Research Methods to update, we will discuss a separate negotiation of expectations as you begin writing your senior thesis.

LinkedIn Profile & Resume: You will design a high quality and professional LinkedIn profile. Set up the account before class and upload a professional looking headshot. If you do not have one, wear professional clothes to class to have a picture taken there. You will have class time to work on improving and editing yours and others' profiles. Post your link on Canvas. Also bring a paper copy of your resume for in-class edits, and then upload an edited version to Canvas.

Informational Interviews: You will pick two professionals who have jobs you are interested in. Have coffee if possible; phone interviews acceptable if necessary. Ask them a dozen pre-prepared questions about their work. Upload the basic interview transcripts and your key learnings as one Word Doc onto Canvas.

Vocational Philosophy: You will write a one-page philosophy of vocation. Basically, what does work mean to you? What kind of work do you want to do and why? Reference thinkers whose ideas you admire. Share with the class.

Career Action Plan & Timeline: A couple pages of bullet-point steps with dates of things you need to do next as you prepare for life after college. This may be deadlines for trainings, tests (e.g., GRE, LSAT), police academy, applications, or more. It should cover about 12-18 months of time. Be prepared to share with the class.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Additional explanations of each assignment will be given in class.	
Standardized Assessments (20% Total): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ETS Senior Proficiency, 10%• ETS Sociology, 10%• Criminal Justice	A=93-100 C=73-76 A-=92-90 C-=70-72 B+=87-89 D+=67-69 B=83-86 D=63-66 B-=80-82 D-=60-62 C+=77-79 F=0-59
Senior Thesis (30% Total)	
Professionalization Activities (50% Total): <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. LinkedIn & Resume, 10%B. 2 Informational Interviews, 10%C. Vocational Philosophy, 10%D. Next Steps & Timeline, 10%E. Career Book Presentation, 10%	
Attendance: After one free miss, I subtract 1 point from your senior thesis points for each day absent.	

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.