



Sociology & Social Work Programs

SOC 2050 – Sociology of the Family

3 units

Fall 2023

Class days: Thursdays

Instructor: Ashley Maakestad, MSW

Class hours: 5:30pm-8:00pm

E-mail: amaakest@pointloma.edu

Meeting location: Rohr Hall
108

Office hours: by appointment, please email

Final Exam: 12/14/2023
7:30pm

Project Presentations : during final exam
timeslot

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.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

Department Mission

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically and empirically evaluate social systems, cultural patterns, and basic human needs to constructively engage as agents of hope with individuals, families, and communities.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PLNU's catalog indicates this course as a “study of the changing nature and function of the family as a basic institution of society with emphasis upon variety related to culture, class, and ethnicity.”

This is a required course for the social work major and contributes knowledge and experiences to help build the foundational competencies identified by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) needed for social work practice. The relationship between this course and the CSWE Competencies are attached. The course specifically contributes to competencies numbered 2,3,6,7,8. [CSWE Competencies - SOC2050.xlsx](#)

In particular, SOC 2050 will introduce you to various perspectives in the study of marriage and family. During our shared journey, we will critically explore the connections between our own personal lives and the larger societies in which we live by evaluating the following: the historical background of the American family system; cross-cultural comparisons of families; nonmarital lifestyles; and the impact of policy, social class, race, and ethnicity on the family. We will also turn our attention to how sociologists approach the study of intimacy; gender; partner selection; communication and conflict resolution; work and the family; power and violence, and divorce and resilience.

This class will give you the ability to understand how people make sense of the world. This understanding is critical for your **professional and personal lives**. In addition, when you read or hear claims about families, you will be able to examine the assumptions or premises of arguments, think about possible sources of bias, look at the evidence, and consider alternative interpretations and solutions.

The class requirements encourage a “hands-on” experiential approach that allows you to actively grapple with the ideas, issues, and problems inherent in the field. Lectures will be augmented with discussion, group work, activities, and videos. One component of this student-driven course will be peer evaluation, peer response, peer collaboration and to use these collective processes to support our mutual learning goals. This

compels you to have a stake in the class: it depends on cooperative learning as well as the expertise, dedication, and interest of the instructor.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Together, we will:

1. Understand and articulate the differences between the concept of family as a public and private institution.
2. Understand the family within the main Sociological Frameworks
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how the structure of families and family relationships are influenced by key social, economic, political and cultural forces.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how constructions of gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, age and class affect family structure and the experiences of family members.
5. Discuss how families are connected to and shaped by culture and other major institutions especially political and economic processes.
6. Understand the importance of advocacy in helping vulnerable populations access available services.
7. Relate differences in the core concepts to their impact on social well-being.

This is a shared learning journey. I'm in. Are you?

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society.

Lamanna, Mary Ann. Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a

Diverse Society. 13th Edition

ISBN-13: 978-1337109666

Additional readings will be available free on Canvas

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 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an

estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Assignment distribution:

Synchronous Participation @ 5 points each	70 (17%)
Discussion Boards @ 10 points each	130 (32%)
Surveys @ 2 points each	6 (1%)
Course Project	60 (15%)
Exam 1	70 (17%)
Exam 2	70 (17%)
Total points for course	406

It is possible to earn an additional 20 points in extra credit from the various options below. Points will be added to the total class points.

- Relationship Qs EC (Week 8) 10 points possible
- Film EC (Week 15) 10 points possible

FINAL EXAMINATION (aka Project Presentations)

There will be two examinations during the semester. There will be no final exam. Instead, you will be presenting your semester long project during the final exam slot. Successful completion of this class requires participating in the final project presentation on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same

day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** classes/ in person classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of 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. A portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the Discussion assignments by the posted due dates. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

One of the goals for this class will be to stimulate creative and critical thinking which requires being involved in the analysis and discussion of various topics. Participation means being prepared by doing the readings **before synchronous/face to face** class meetings and offering substantive insights and comments **during** class discussions. You will earn **five** points in total for each week's synchronous contribution.

COURSE PROJECT

The Course Project is worth 15% of the grade and you have several options: from mindful volunteering, to creating an original art piece or conducting research in the community. The Course Project has you extend your sociological learning outside the classroom doors through authentic hands-on experiences that offers opportunities to meaningfully serve as leaders and agents of hope and change. Projects will culminate in Presentations at the end of the semester. Refer to the Course Project information page in the Week 1 Module on Canvas for detailed instructions .

CONTENT WARNING

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In SOC2050, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. If you encounter a topic that is challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends

or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. If you have a medical emergency,

psychological crisis or death in the family, obviously I will work with you to find a way for you to make up your work. Documentation is required to do so *within two days* of missed work.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

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](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

I will do everything in my power to make this class accessible to **all** students. If I am doing something that interferes with your learning, please e-mail me or schedule a time to meet. If you need assistance with course material, want to continue a discussion, or just talk, please let me know. My door is always open.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

DATE PRESENTED**CLASS CONTENT****Week 1: August 31, 2023****Introduction to Course**

Review Canvas logistics and orient to class

Due Thursday (8/31/23, before class):

WK1 Share "A Little About You"

Due Thursday (8/31/23, before class):

WK1 Survey

Thursday:

Class in person

**Week 2 : September 7, 2023
Choices****Defining Family and Making**

Textbook:

Chapter 1

Readings/ videos on Canvas:
TV Families over the years, Sociological Imagination

The Way we Weren't(Coontz),

Due Tuesday (9/5/2023):
responses by Wednesday 9/6/23)

WK2 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 3: September 14, 2023**Studying Marriage and Family**

Textbook:

Chapter 2

Readings/ video on Canvas:
Research), Three Major Paradigms in Society, Crack Babies

Research on family trends(Pew

Due Tuesday (9/12/2023):
responses due Wednesday 9/13/2023)

WK3 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 4: September 21, 2023**Gender and Family**

Textbook:

Chapter 3

Readings/ Videos on Canvas:
Venus today, Good morning Britain, TED Talk - Angela Kade Goepferd

Video - Baby Daddy, Mars and

Due Tuesday (9/19/2023):
responses due Wednesday 9/20/2023)

WK4 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 5: September 28, 2023
Relationships

Sexuality and Intimate

Textbook:

Chapter 4

Readings/ videos on Canvas:

Is Hooking up bad for women?

(Armstrong, Hamilton England), Sex needs a new Metaphor (Al Vernacchio)

Due Tuesday (9/26/2023):
responses due Wednesday 9/27/2023)

WK5 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 6: October 5, 2023

Love and Choosing a Partner

Textbook:

Chapter 5

Readings/ videos on Canvas:
Pandemic Dating(Lang)

Modern Romance(Aziz Ansari),

Due Tuesday (10/3/2023):
responses due Wednesday 10/4/2023)

WK6 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Due Thursday (10/5/2023, before class):

Project Proposal

Exam 1 Due: October 9th, 2023

Week 7: October 12, 2023

Non-marital Lifestyles

Textbook:

Chapter 6

Readings/ videos on Canvas:

Millennials have figured out an

approach to relationships (Renfro), How cohabitation is reshaping American families
(Brown), Living Single (DePaulo)

Due Tuesday (10/10/2023):
responses due Wednesday (10/11/2023)

WK7 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 8: October 19, 2023

Marriage

Textbook:

Chapter 7

Readings/ Videos:
Arranged Marriages (Page), Video - The Next America

Marriage, a history (Coontz),

Due Tuesday (10/17/2023):
responses due Wednesday 10/18/2023)

WK8 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:
break

No class in person due to fall

Due Wednesday (10/19/2023):

Relationship Qs **Extra Credit**

Week 9: October 26, 2023

Reproduction and Parenting

Textbook:

Chapter 8

Read/ watch:
Abortion Over Adoption (Khazan), TED Talk - Designer Babies(Blair)

Why So Many Women Choose

Due Tuesday (10/24/2023):
responses due Wednesday 10/25/23)

WK9 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 10: November 2, 2023

Challenges for Raising Children

Textbook:

Chapter 9

Read:
(Clifford, Silver- Greenberg), Relentlessness of Modern Parenting (Miller), How Black Mothers Struggle to Navigate "Thug" Imagery(Dow)

The new reality of Jane Crow

Due Tuesday (10/31/2023):
responses due Wednesday 11/1/2023)

WK10 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

**Due Friday (11/3/2023):
Assignment**

WK10 Project's Sociological Lens

Last day to drop semester classes:

November 3, 2023

Week 11: November 9, 2023

Work and Well being

Textbook:

Chapter 10

Read/ Watch:
Work(Collins),

Two Women returning to

Due Tuesday (11/7/2023):
responses due Wednesday 11/8/2023)

WK11 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Week 12: November 16, 2023

Communication

Textbook:

Chapter 11

Read/ Watch:
(Smalley), No Sound, No Fury, No marriage (Pritchett), 10 Ways.... (Headlee)

Four types of Communication

Due Tuesday (11/14/2023):
responses due Wednesday 11/15/23)

WK12 Discussion (classmate

Thursday:

Class in person

Exam 2 Due: November 20th, 2023

**Week 13: November 22, 2023
22nd-26th**

Thanksgiving Break: November

No in-person class or assignments due this week. Use this week to work on your final project and to get yourselves organized for a strong end to the semester.

Week 14: November 30, 2023

Textbook:

Read:
Loved Him (Steiner), Interview with Marta Palaez.

Due Tuesday (11/28/2023):
responses due Wednesday 11/29/2023)

Thursday:

Power and Violence

Chapter 12

He Held a Gun to my Head. I

WK13 Discussion (classmate

Class in person

Week 15: December 7, 2023

Textbook:

Read/ Watch:
People (Lucy Hone), Rethinking Infidelity (Perel)

Due Tuesday (12/5/2023):
responses due Wednesday 12/6/23)

Thursday:

Due Thursday (12/7/2023 by 5:30pm):

Divorce, Resilience and Hope

Chapter 13, 14, 15

The Three Secrets of Resilient

WK14 Discussion (classmate

class in person

Film Extra Credit Assignment

**Final Exam: December 14, 2023 @ 7:30pm: Class
Project Presentations**