



Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences

SOC1001.3 Introduction to Sociology

Number of Units 3

Fall 2025

Meeting days/times (T-TH 11:00 am – 12:15 pm)

Meeting location (Rohr Hall (RH) 109)

Final Exam: (Thursday, 12/18, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm)

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Kevin Modesto, PhD, MSW, MATS
Phone:	(619) 849-2368
Email:	kmodesto@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Rohr Hall 105 --

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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

General Education 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

Welcome to SOC 1001!

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology (FE) *is an introduction to sociology, basic concepts, theories, development as a discipline, and the tools of social investigation.*

It is also a foundational exploration course aimed at helping students understand and engage human society and the social world. The course will seek to introduce basic theories and tools to view, assess, and understand how social processes influence individuals and society.

Over the semester, this course will explore ways of “thinking sociologically.” We will consider how things like gender, age, race, socioeconomic standing, etc. shape the opportunities people have and influence the decisions they make. Major ideas, concepts, and methods in the study of society including socialization, culture, social structure, social stratification, social control, and social change will be examined.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically discuss major theoretical perspectives, such as conflict theory, structural functionalism, and symbolic interactionism.
- Identify and critique various social structures, particularly those resulting in inequality and injustice.
- Evaluate and apply social science data to inform decisions of everyday life.
- Describe and exemplify the relationship between our Christian faith and human actions.
- Apply service-minded sociological concepts to specific need areas in our communities.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

General Education Learning Outcomes

FE Learning Outcome 2c: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

1. [Link to GE courses and assessment plan](#)
2. [Link to GELO's](#)
3. <GE Learning Outcome(s) here>
4. <Signature Assignment(s) here>

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources*

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

[Griffiths, H., Keirns, N. J., Strayer, E., Cody-Rydzewski, S., Scaramuzzo, G., Sadler, T., Vyain, S., ... OpenStax \(Nonprofit organization\). \(2021\). *Introduction to sociology 3e*. Links to an external site.](#)

ISBN-10: 1938168011/ISBN-13: 978-1-938168-01-7

This is a **FREE** online text. You have a choice of downloading the free PDF (or other e-reader formats) from the link below, purchasing the iBook, or purchasing a paperback copy from online retailers. Additional recommended items such as articles and videos will also be assigned by the professor and posted in Canvas.

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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 __ unit class delivered over __ 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 __ total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Assessment and Grading

ASSIGNMENTS

Service Learning (30%) – *Signature Assignment*

Students will engage in an experience that helps expand their sociological imagination. Students can select an approved site for 8 hours of service learning to participate in this semester. They will write reflections on the experience. There will be four deliverables throughout the semester, worth 10 points each, for a combined total of 40 points. The first deliverable is due on our third class meeting. This introductory assignment is to help you become more self-aware as you prepare for your service-learning project. On this 2-page paper (double-spaced, size 12 font), you will provide an in-depth introduction of yourself: your family background, where you lived, where you went to school, your work experiences (if any), etc. You will be turning in a copy of these journals at the beginning of class on the day they are due in Canvas.

Weekly Reflections (30%)

Weekly reflections express your reactions and analysis of your reading assignments in a more personal way than in a quiz, formal research, or an analytical essay. Reflections are not summaries or regurgitations of readings. Instead, follow these guidelines:

- One sentence identifying a key point, concept, idea, or theory that emerged from the readings for the week. Refer to one key quote from the text that describes this key concept/topic. Cite in ASA or APA format.
- Draft one question that emerged from the readings this week. Cite in ASA or APA format.
- One sentence applying and connecting the concept/topic to a real issue that you experienced or read about.
- A creative element relating to your weekly reflection. You have total freedom on this assignment. It can be a photo, a song, a drawing, anything creative you choose.
- Proper language and grammar are required.

Reflections must be 3 sentences long (Typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font) and submitted electronically in Canvas by 8:30 Thursday mornings. Reflections will be graded credit/no credit basis based on the specifications listed above. Failure to be on time or to include each element above will result in no credit. There will be a total of 12 reflections due, for a total of 30 points, this allows room for errors over the course of the semester. If a student fails to submit 12 assignments the remainder of the assignments will be graded proportionately.

Exams (20%)

There will be 3 exams over the course of the semester. The lowest score will be dropped. Each exam will be cumulative including material covered in class up to the point of the exam. More information will be given as we approach the exam dates. They will be mostly multiple choice, with some essay question components. The exams will count for a total of 20 percent of your total grade.

Presence, Preparation, & Participation (20%)

Presence is vital for success in life. Simply showing is expected in most professional settings. Presence is one of three elements that will make up this portion of your grade. The value of presence can be enhanced by thoughtful Preparation. Being prepared for class, work, a meeting, goes along way. I will be assessing preparation daily. Participation is key for building a collaborative learning community. You will earn these participation points by being actively involved in classroom discussions, small group activities, and periodic in class assessments. Points will be distributed proportionally.

Grades will be based on the following:

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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	

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 [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam 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.

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 [class name], 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. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually 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 in the area of sociology, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Introduction to Sociology, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include race, class, gender, religion and others. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of sociology, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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.

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 you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

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 distance education outside 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.]

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) is prohibited in this course for any aspect of your work, including idea generation, drafting, editing, or final submissions. This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills without the assistance of AI technologies. Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/Title-IX.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, 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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Note: The information below must be included under the “PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy” Section if you are teaching an Online or Hybrid course.

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered asynchronously and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid 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, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

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

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Assignments At-A-Glance

Lomabooks Instructions for Students:

*This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.*

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

*For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)*