	Department of Sociology, Social Work and Family Sciences **SOC4076 Senior Seminar in Sociology** **3 Units**
Fall 2025	

Meeting day: **Wednesday**	Instructor: **Dr. Jamie Gates**
Meeting time: **4:30-7pm**	Phone: **619 849 2659**
Meeting location: **Rohr Sociology 111**	Email: jgates@pointloma.edu **LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/in/jamie-gates-0296621aLinks to an external site.
Final: **Portfolio Presentations**	Drop-in location and times: **Rohr Sociology 107 or by appointment on Zoom** **Tuesdays, 11-12pm,** **Thursdays, 3-4pm** **or by appointment**

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

PLNU's Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences exists to nurture servant scholars who critically evaluate social systems, cultural patterns, and basic human needs to constructively engage as agents of hope with individuals, families, and communities.

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. Students will also be administered standardized examinations to track overall collegiate learning as well as content-specific sociology learning. An additional assessment for students with a criminal justice concentration will also be administered. Interested students will have opportunity to build on research writing from other classes for a Senior Thesis. 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will have:

- Produced a Senior Portfolio that showcases
    - what the student has learned in the major and
    - what would be of interest to a prospective employer/graduate program.
- Shown evidence of growth in their writing in sociology.
- Demonstrated research literacy and an ability to work with data and statistics.
- Formulated a personal philosophy of work and vocation.
- Developed a plan for approaching careers and/or graduate school.
- Presented evidence of greater professionalization and job-seeking skills.

Required Text

Called: PLNU Vocational Reader Download Called: PLNU Vocational Reader

(2019)

Other readings as assigned.

Course Expectations

General Expectations

1. Comprehensive reading of text and assigned materials.
2. Active participation in classroom discussions and activities.
3. Demonstration of the ability to apply foundational knowledge and principles to contemporary social circumstances.
4. Successful and timely completion of assignments, course projects and testing.
5. Faithful attendance as defined by the PLNU Attendance Policy.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

While we are in an all digital environment, we are working hard to replicate the strong benefits of learning in community. In university surveys, students by far prefer learning in community (even on Zoom) than in a fully digital mode. The general expectation is that everyone will attend and fully participate in the 10 Zoom class sessions we have during the semester. Special accommodation can be made for those with extenuating circumstances, but all effort should be made to join us for these synchronous sessions. Full participation in the online components of the course is also expected, but the grade for that participation is capture in each of those assignments.

See below for the PLNU Attendance Policy.

SOCIOLOGY SENIOR PORTFOLIO

The meta-assignment in the course is to develop a portfolio of pieces of writing, testing, discussions and presentations that showcase the level of sociological literacy, analytical skills, writing and presentation skills, as well as to serve as a measure of where the student is in their current path toward professional development. The following

assignments will make up a single portfolio that students will submit digitally and then present a summary to the class at the end of the semester.

- **Demonstrate evidence of growth in Critical Sociological Analysis (incl. theory, methods/data and issues)**
    - Early Research Writing Sample
    - Mature Research Writing Sample (e.g. empirical paper from a senior level research course; Senior Thesis)
    - Give evidence and evaluation of your own growth in critical analysis skills
- **Demonstrate Research Literacy and Knowledge of Key Concepts**
    - Testing
        - Sociology Major Field Test
        - Criminal Justice Concentration Test
    - Analysis and Discussion of Research Articles related to the Sociology of Work
        - Research Analyses
        - In-class and online discussions
- **Demonstrate Mature Reflection on Vocation (theological, philosophical, sociological, incl. art, poetry, music)**
    - Weekly Journal Entries in response to Vocational Readings and TED Talks
    - Culminating Vocational Reflection
        - Written Reflection
- **Professional Development Assignments (in partnership with PLNU's Office of Strengths and Vocation)**
    - Profile on at least one professional site: Handshake, Indeed, LinkedIn, CareerBuilder, Glassdoor (peer reviewed)
    - Evidence of Networking Skills (Informational Interviews, job shadowing, internships, etc.)

    - Evidence of Interview Prep for Job/Graduate School Interview
    - Transferable Skills Audit
    - Cover Letter (Peer Reviewed)
    - Resume/Curriculum Vita (Peer Reviewed)
    - Career Action Plan and Timeline
- **Final Portfolio Presentation**

Course Grading System

	Assignment
Attendance and Participation	
Critical Sociological Analysis	
	Early Research
	Mature Resear
	Growth in Critic
Key Concepts in Sociology/Criminal Justice	
	Sociology Majo
	Criminology Te

Sociology of Work and the Workplace	
	Discussion Fac
	Discussion Fac
	Research Disc
Reflections on Vocation	
	Journal Entries
	Written Reflecti
Professional Development	
	Cover Letter
	Resume/CV
	Professional M
	Transferable Sl
	Interview Prep
	Networking Ski
	Career Action F
Final Portfolio Presentation	

Extra Credit (possible 200)	
Total	
(Extra Credit)	

Grade Determination (POINTS TOTAL)

A	930-1000
A-	900-929
B+	870- 899
B	830- 869
B-	800- 829
C+	770- 799
C	730- 769
C-	700- 729
D+	670- 699
D	630- 669
F	0 – 629

Late Policy for this Class

All assignments are expected to be turned in by the scheduled due dates for full credit. Assignments turned in after the due date will lose 10% per day after the assigned due date and time. Late days are counted in 24-hour periods. Submitting between 5:01pm on the due date and 5pm the next day is one day late, and so on.

You are given 3 self-granted extensions which you can use to give yourself extra time without penalty. You may use all three days on one assignment, or a day each on up to three separate assignments. Choose these extensions wisely, as instructor-granted extensions are only considered after all grace days are used and only given in highly exceptional situations. You will need to contact the professor in person if requesting this extra level of extension. Students often go to great lengths to meet deadlines and conserve self-granted extension days: pull all-nighters, ignore other classes, miss events they wanted to attend, work when feeling poorly, submit unpolished assignments, or even cancel key time with friends and family. It would not be respectful of their efforts to hand out extra days to students who were less committed to meeting deadlines or not as cautious in conserving grace days. If asking for an instructor-granted extension, you will be expected to legitimize how all of your grace days were used, and make a compelling case for additional accommodation beyond the grace days everyone else receives. We use this information to find an appropriate balance between providing relief to you and maintaining fairness to others.

Remember, late work handed in when you have run out of self-granted extensions is discounted 10 % per day late.

(ideas in this late policy borrowed from
Stanford, https://stanford.edu/class/ee365/late.htmlLinks to an external site.)

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where students 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 if you have prayer requests, you can contact the Office of Student Life and Formation.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 help and support 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, it is 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

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.

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.

Academic Accommodations

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.

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.

Canvas Support

If you have questions about the content you find in my Canvas course or need clarification on assignment instructions please let me know. If you are unsure how to use any given feature in Canvas you will find the Canvas Guides to be a very helpful resource. If you cannot access something in my Canvas course or it appears that some part of the course is not working properly, please contact the Office of Instructional Technology for support at oit@pointloma.edu. Include specific information in the request (course ID, section, assignment or module name, etc.) to expedite the troubleshooting process. Screenshots are super helpful!