

Course Syllabus

Adult Undergraduate Studies

SCL1001 - Introduction to Sociology

3 Units

Spring 2026 | Quad 1

January 12 – March 8

Fully Online

Meeting Days/Times: Asynchronous

Meeting Location: Online

Final Exam: (Day/Time): N/A

Instructor: Professor Rachel Andersen

Email: randerse@pointloma.edu

Office Location and Hours: Zoom, 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 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 cultures.

Course Description

Sociology presents a fundamentally different perspective on our human world than most Americans typically engage with: one that emphasizes our connections and relationships with other people. In this course, you will begin to examine the role that institutions, power, and our own social interpretations play in shaping our lives. We will examine the constraints and advantages that come with belonging to social groups (including those created by race, gender, age, social-economic status, and religion), and we will wrestle with conceptions of social structure, culture, and deviance.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Critically discuss major theoretical perspectives, such as conflict theory, structural functionalism, and symbolic interactionism. (GELO 1d)
 2. Identify and critique various social structures, particularly those resulting in inequality and injustice.
 3. Evaluate and apply social science data to inform decisions of everyday life. (GELO 1d)
 4. Describe and exemplify the relationship between our Christian faith and human actions.
 5. Apply service-minded sociological concepts to specific need areas in our communities.
 6. Demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts. (GELO 1d)
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General Education Learning Outcome

1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions

Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. **Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ**

Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.

2. **Growing, in a Christ-centered Faith Community**

Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental, and social contexts.

3. **Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith**

Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

[Hensley, J., et al \(2021\). *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax. Links to an external site.](#) (Available for free online)

Note: Students are responsible for having the required textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

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. 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.

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 8 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 110 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided below and in the Canvas modules.

Estimated Time-to-Complete

Activity Type	Estimated Hours
Required Resources	41
Quizzes	4
Discussion Boards & Activities	45
Reflection Paper	20
Total	110

Assessment and Grading

Weighted Grades

This course uses weighted grades. Each assignment category is worth a certain percentage of the total grade (100%) for the course, as specified in the table below:

Course Assignments

Assignment Category	Description	P	C
Chapter Lectures	You will complete short interactive lessons in Canvas to help reinforce weekly readings.	6	
Chapter Quizzes	After completing the weekly readings, you will test your knowledge via these quizzes.	2	
Discussions	You will participate in weekly discussions on the week's concepts and readings.	2	
Activities	You will complete several reflection-based activities on the course concepts.	2	
Theoretical Reflection Paper	At the end of the course, you will compose a paper in which you will use a sociological theory to analyze and explain a social topic	2	

Student grades for assignments will be posted in the Canvas gradebook no later than midnight on Tuesday of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the comments posted in the gradebook, as these comments are intended to help students improve their work. Final grades will be posted by the due date as posted in the Academic Calendar.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for all exams and final course grades:

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

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 this course, 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 religion, race, gender, and sexuality. 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 your family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of

expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for **each day** an assignment is late, and assignments will **not be** accepted for credit four days after the due date. If missing assignments result in the failure to meet learning outcomes, you may receive a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. Assignments will be considered late if posted after the due date and time using Pacific Standard Time. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be pre-approved by the instructor and the program director.

PLNU Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate and Adult Undergraduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Mission Valley (MV) campus, we have an onsite chaplain who is available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with the onsite chaplain, you may email Dr. Sylvia Cortez Masyuk at scortezm@pointloma.edu.

In addition, on the MV campus, there is a prayer chapel on the third floor, which is open for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

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

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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 (refer to the Dean) 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 [Adult Undergraduate Academic and General Policies](#) [Links to an external site.](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: “In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignments in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

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 619-849-2486). 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. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student’s request.

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 ensure 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 special 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 a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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](#). 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 via our [Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via our [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

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.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to [Academic Policies](#) [Links to an external site.](#) for additional details.

Synchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

For synchronous courses that have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student’s enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.

Note: For synchronous courses with an online asynchronous week, refer to the Online Asynchronous Class Attendance policy listed below.

Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
 1. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 2. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
 2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
 3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).
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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.

GPS Academic Resources

PLNU offers the following free academic resources virtually for Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) Students. Visit myPLNU through the links below for more information.

- [The GPS Writing Center](#) offers:

- **Zoom Writers Workshops** offered each quad on a variety of helpful topics
- **One-to-one appointments** with the Writing Coach
- **Microlearning YouTube Video Library** for helpful tips anytime
- [Research Help Guide](#) to help you start your research
 - The physical office is located on the third floor of the [Mission Valley Regional Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#) off the student lounge
- **Academic Writing Resources Course:** Found on your Canvas Dashboard, this course is non-credit with 24/7 access, no time limits, and self-paced content. [Watch a quick video run-through](#)[Links to an external site.](#) and take time now to explore!
- [Grammarly](#)[Links to an external site.:](#) Students have unlimited FREE access to Grammarly for Education, a trusted tool designed to help enhance writing skills by providing real-time feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and providing suggestions. Grammarly’s Generative AI is NOT available with our student accounts.
- **Tutoring:** Students have access to 24/7 live or scheduled subject tutoring through Tutor.com, including a Paper Drop-Off Service with feedback within 12 hours.

Assignments-at-a-Glance

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

Course Summary:

Course Summary

Date	Details
Mon Jul 7, 2025	Quiz Academic Honesty Verification Statement (Required to Proceed to Week 1)
	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Activity - Introductions

Course Summary

Date	Details
	Quiz Wk 1 Chapter 1 Lecture: Introduction to Sociology
	Quiz Wk 1 Chapter 3 Lecture: Culture
Tue Jul 8, 2025	Quiz Wk 1 Quiz - Chapters 1 & 3
Wed Jul 9, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Discussion - The Six Elements of Culture
Mon Jul 14, 2025	Quiz Wk 2 Chapter 4 & 5 Lecture: Society and Social Interaction & Socialization
Tue Jul 15, 2025	Quiz Wk 2 Quiz - Chapters 4 & 5
Wed Jul 16, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Discussion - The Six Agents of Socialization
Fri Jul 18, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Activity - Television and Society
	Quiz Wk 3 Chapter 6 Lecture: Groups and Organizations
Mon Jul 21, 2025	Quiz Wk 3 Chapter 7 Lecture: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control
Tue Jul 22, 2025	Quiz Wk 3 Quiz - Chapters 6 & 7
Wed Jul 23, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Discussion - Social Network and Social Ties

Course Summary

Date	Details
Fri Jul 25, 2025	Assignment Wk 3 Activity - Analyzing Our Social Media Usage (Group)
Mon Jul 28, 2025	Quiz Wk 4 Chapter 15 Lecture: Religion
Tue Jul 29, 2025	Quiz Wk 4 Quiz - Chapter 15
Wed Jul 30, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Discussion - Religiosity
Fri Aug 1, 2025	Assignment Wk 4 Activity - "Religiosity" Write Up & Peer Review
Mon Aug 4, 2025	Quiz Wk 5 Chapter 11 Lecture: Race and Ethnicity
Tue Aug 5, 2025	Quiz Wk 5 Quiz - Chapter 11
Wed Aug 6, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 5 Discussion - Racism
Fri Aug 8, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 5 Activity - Ethnic Identity
Mon Aug 11, 2025	Quiz Wk 6 Chapter 12 Lecture: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality
	Quiz Wk 6 Chapter 14 Lecture: Relationships, Marriage and Family
Tue Aug 12, 2025	Quiz Wk 6 Quiz - Chapters 12 & 14

Course Summary

Date	Details
Wed Aug 13, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 6 Discussion - Gender
Fri Aug 15, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 6 Activity - Gender and Sexuality
Mon Aug 18, 2025	Quiz Wk 7 Chapter 16 Lecture: Education
	Quiz Wk 7 Chapter 18 Lecture: Work and the Economy
Tue Aug 19, 2025	Quiz Wk 7 Quiz - Chapters 16 & 18
Wed Aug 20, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 7 Discussion - COVID-19 and Education
Fri Aug 22, 2025	Assignment Wk 7 Activity - Educational Background and Goals (Groups)
Wed Aug 27, 2025	Discussion Topic Wk 8 Discussion - Takeaways
Thu Aug 28, 2025	Assignment Wk 8 Theoretical Reflection Paper (Peer Review)
Fri Aug 29, 2025	Assignment End-of-Course Evaluation
	Assignment Wk 8 Activity - Peer Review