



Sociology, Social Work and Family Sciences

SOC 3060 Race and Ethnicity

3 units

Fall 2026

Meeting days/times: Mondays 3:30 to 5:45 pm

**Meeting location: Church of the Nazarene in Mid-City, 4101 University Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92105**

Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 2026

Course Information	Specifics for the Course
Instructor title and name:	Kevin Modesto, PhD, MSW, MATS
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Office location and hours:	Monday, 9:30 to 2:30, Tuesday 9:30 to 5:00, 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.

Social Work Program Mission

The mission of the baccalaureate social work program is to develop competent professionals who are committed to serving others through acquisition and integration of the essential knowledge, skills, and values that form the foundation of generalist practice in the social work profession; who are motivated to promote social justice; and who understand that a Wesleyan perspective, a desire for continuous personal development, and respectful engagement in the community that empowers others are integral components of the means for relating to God through service.[1]

Course Description

SOC 3060 Race and Ethnicity is an introduction to the sociological analysis of race and ethnicity. The course will assess the historical and social factors relating to various ethnic, racial, and status groups. Particular attention will be paid to (EP 2.1.4) - Engage diversity and difference in practice by:

1. Recognizing the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
2. Gaining sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
3. Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
4. View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.

In addition, the course will explore culturally relevant and practical ways to engage and address inequality and injustice in society.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should be able to do the following tasks. Statements in italics are from the Council of Social Work Education's (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS):

- Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations
- Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences
- Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.
- Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Exhibit an understanding of the sociological study of race and ethnicity.
2. Reveal knowledge of the factors that can result in inequality and injustice in society.
3. Demonstrate increasing sensitivity to diverse and special populations.
4. Display the ability to integrate Christianity with race and ethnic relations.
5. Identify and implement actionable steps to improve racial and ethnic relations.

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.

Boyle, Gregory (2024). *Cherished belonging: The healing power of love in divided times*. New York: Avid reader Press.

Edmondson, C. B. & Brennan, C. (2022). *Faithful anti-racism: Moving past talk to systemic change*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press.

Kendi, I. X. (2019). *How be an antiracist*. New York: One World.

Le, Thi Diem Thuy. (2003). *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*. Boston: Alfred A. Knopf.

McBride, B. (2023). *Troubling the water: The urgent work of radical belonging*. Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books.

Nazario, S. (2007). *Enrique's Journey: The story of a boy's dangerous odyssey to reunite with his mother*. New York: Random House.

Reading as assigned by instructor in 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 112.5 hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Electronics In the Classroom

As a host of this classroom, I have a policy about phones and laptop computers and devices like them. This policy is to allow you to become more comfortable taking a break from technology, allowing you to be in the present moment and adding to your professional tolerance of being without devices all of the time. 1. I will give you a “tech break” during class - please do not check your phones until that time. If there is a big life circumstance going on, please let me know at the beginning of class and we will talk about your use of your phone. 2. There will be times when I will ask you to take out your laptop and smart devices in the classroom to further our collective learning. Other than that, I strongly recommend NOT using laptops in class. The reasons are threefold:

1. It is hard to not check other things, which impairs your learning. You most likely are not aware of the impairment, but the research is quite clear.

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2013/05/multitasking_while_studying_divided_attention_and_technological_gadgets.html Links to an external site.

1. Even if it doesn't impair your learning, it impairs others learning.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254> Links to an external site.
2. You write more but learn less. Writing your notes creates synthesis which increases learning.
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> d. It also impairs long-term retention. This new study shows a causal effect with grades being lower by about half a letter grade.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/27/class-cellphone-and-laptop-use-lowers-exam-scores-new-study-shows>

Links to an external site. So I am asking you not to use laptops unless you need or strongly prefer a laptop to take notes. In that case talk to me beforehand, and we will make that work.

Assessment and Grading

Assignments are graded according to the rubric for each assignment. The rubric templates are included in this syllabus.

The grade for work in this course is determined by the total points accrued in the designated assignment areas, as outlined below. The semester grade is calculated as follows:

Sample Grading Scale:

A=93-100

A-=92-90

B+=87-89

B=83-86

C=73-76

D=63-66

B-=80-82

C-=70-72

D-=60-62

C+=77-79

D+=67-69

F=0-59

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Contributions: Presence, Preparation, Participation (3 points per week)

- Presence -- Attendance is mandatory. The nature of this course requires attendance. Physical presence alone does not constitute attendance. All people are expected to give the guest speakers complete attention, engage, and ask questions. No cell phone or computer use is acceptable in class. Arrive on time. Students are allowed two absences over the course of the semester.
- Preparation --Students are expected to be contributors to the learning process, and are therefore required to:
 - Demonstrate preparation for class by crafting a thoughtful question drawn from the reading(s).
- Participation
 - Asking a question or contributing to the conversation during the class time live or in the chat.

Ah-ha's!! Follow-up Questions and Reflections: after our time together use this forum to ask questions about the content that was covered. To get credit for your participation each week:

1. Provide one insight, Ah-ha, gained from the class/experience.
2. Offer one insight, Ah-ha, gained from the readings/materials.
3. Ask one question. This could be in class or online here after class.

Introductory Presentation: Provide a 3-minute introduction about their racial and ethnic background.

1. Who am I? Introduce yourself. Your passions, interests, and goals. Tell about your family, your hobbies, etc.
2. What is my racial and ethnic heritage and identity? Discuss your racial and ethnic background. Where are your families from? Does your race and ethnicity influence you in any ways? Do you celebrate holidays in a specific manner? Do you eat special

foods? Wear particular clothing or dance special dances? Be sure to write about what makes you, your family, your culture, unique.

3. Cultural Experiences? Explore your experiences with people from other racial and ethnic backgrounds. If you do not have many or any experience with people from different cultures, explain why you think this is or was the case.
4. Thoughts about race and ethnicity in the U.S.? Discuss your thoughts about race in the United States at this point in history. What factors influence your thoughts.
5. Questions for the semester. List any questions you might have about race and ethnicity.
6. Final thoughts. Summarize your final thoughts about race and ethnicity.
7. Include a recent photo of you. The photo is necessary for credit.

Cultural Events: Two cultural events are required by every student. Cultural events can be anything going on in the community.

It is highly encouraged to participate in and attend a wide range of cultural events available in one of San Diego's diverse communities over the course of the semester. Such events include but are not limited to volunteering with the Mid-City Church of the Nazarene Food Distribution, San Diego Canyonlands, Ocean Discovery Institute or other organizational events, eating across the ethnicities at one of the many fine restaurants in the community, attending cultural festivals, visiting an alternative religious service. Students must choose two different types of events for their experiences, for example, a student may visit a local restaurant and a Festival but may not attend two restaurants.

Credit requires:

Proof of participation in each activity or event.

A reflection that addresses the following questions:

- What did you do?
- Proof that you did it.
- What did you enjoy?
- How were you challenged?
- What did you learn?

Community Exegesis: The students will use the tools described in Michael Mata's *Entering the community* on how to observe the cultural clues of the physical and social environment of a city. This assignment requires a student to walk a specific community to observe the sociological aspects at play.

1. Take at least three (3) photos during the exegesis.
2. Write a brief paragraph describing your thoughts, feelings, and analysis for each photo.

We want to “see” with an open heart and mind; “hear” the sounds of the city and people which will hopefully provoke curiosity and a desire to know more; “place” themselves in the shoes of the people and places they encounter while using all senses to learn about and begin to understand the community of City Heights and the people who call this neighborhood home. The purpose of the exegesis is to help students analyze the built and social environments of a community.

Critical Book Review: Select one of the books below and write a five paragraph book reviews assessing the course readings and integrating them with the core texts McBride (2023) *Troubling the Waters* and Edmondson & Brennan’s (2022) *Faithful Anti-racism* are required. Use the headers in bold below to guide your writing and structure.

1. **Introduction** -- This will be a brief overview of the paper identifying your primary thesis.
2. **Summary** -- A brief original summary of the required book. This should be in your own words, not from spark notes or a similar source. It should also not be what your friend wrote.
3. **Integration** -- This paragraph should take one or two ideas from *Enrique’s Journey* or *The Gangster We are all Looking For* and link it to a key sociological concept or principle found in *Transcending Racial Barriers*.
4. **Application** -- A key goal of the course is to help students apply course content to their chosen profession. How might the lessons, theories, and concepts from the reading inform your practice?
5. **Conclusion** -- Summarize your key thoughts by linking back to your introductory thesis and supporting paragraphs.

Enrique’s Journey; The Gangster We are Looking For; When the Spirit Catches Me; Undivided or a book approved by the instructor.

Final Exam: The final exam could take several forms from a traditional exam to possibly a reflective essay addressing the following:

- Compare and contrast the course readings and texts.
- Describe your biggest ah hah moment from the readings or the class sessions. What was a key take away?
- How will you apply the lesson(s) from the takeaway to your personal and professional life?

- What should the church be doing to address issues of Race and Ethnicity?

The essay should be between no more than 5 double spaced pages.

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 [Graduate 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 social work, 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 [class name], we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include [list topics]. 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 social work, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

General Course Concerns

If you have a concern related to the content or structure of this course, please bring your concern(s) to me (the instructor) in a timely manner, so that we have the opportunity to discuss your thoughts and work together toward a solution.

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.

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 Accelerated Undergraduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. We have onsite chaplains at our different campuses who may be available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with our chaplains, you can find them at the [Chaplain's Page](#) via myPLNU.

In addition, the Mission Valley and Balboa campuses have a prayer chapel for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

Student Success

The Center for Student Success supports our Graduate and Professional Studies students throughout their academic journey. We provide student services such as academic advising and planning, resource workshops, and connect students to career services, writing support, tutorial services, and wellness resources. The Center itself is located on the first floor of the Mission Valley Campus. If you have any questions about how to access resources at PLNU, please start by reaching out to the Center for Student Success [by email](#) or by phone at 619-563-2850. Please visit [myPLNU Student Success](#) for more details. If you are in the School of Education, please contact [SOE Advising](#).

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 (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. Please consult the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) in the [University Catalog](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Note: Additionally, include the following if this pertains to your course:

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."

PLNU Academic Behavior Policy

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the [Academic Behavior Policy](#) in the [University Catalog](#).

PLNU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, as a learning tool, or in some cases generate portions of work you will submit. I will specify in individual assignments what constitutes

appropriate use of AI for that assignment. Please use this [Purdue resource](#) to guide your citations when using AI.

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 on the PL campus, the first floor of the Balboa campus, and the second floor of the Mission Valley campus. For all students, including the Bakersfield campus, virtual appointments are available. You can reach the Educational Access Center (EAC) [by email](#) or phone at 619-849-2533. Students can access both requests for and evidence of disability through the Accommodate link off the main page of [OneLogin](#). 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 approved 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 approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, 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-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. 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 eligibility 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) has experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

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](#). 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](#) or [consult the list of campus pastors](#).

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

PLNU Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
 - a. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - b. 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).

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 the 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.

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](#) 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](#) and take time now to explore!
- [Grammarly](#): 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.

We are here to support you! Contact the [GPS Writing Center](#) any time.

Assignments At-A-Glance/Canvas Course Summary