

CLASS AND INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Section / Meeting days and times: Section 1 / Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30-9:25AM	Instructor title and name: Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Ph.D. Dr. Jimi or Prof. Jimi
Meeting location: Rohr Hall 108	Phone: 619-849-3001 E-mail: jvalient@pointloma.edu
FINAL Schedule: December 13, 2017 Wednesday, 7:30-10AM	Office location and hours: Rohr Hall 106 Tuesdays 9:30AM-2:30PM Thursdays 9:30AM-2:30PM and 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 foundation, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

PLNU STUDENT OUTCOME*To Learn, To Grow, To Serve***DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT***Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences*

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.

WELCOME AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

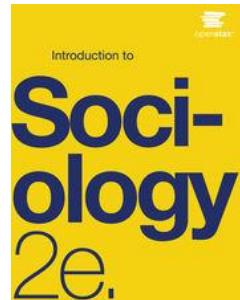
First of all, welcome to Introduction to Sociology! This introductory course is a general education (GE) course aimed at teaching students the basic sociological theories and tools to better understand and engage the social world. During our semester together, we will explore ways of “thinking sociologically.” What might this look like? One of our foundational theorists C. Wright Mills talks about this perspective as the *sociological imagination*: the ability to see our personal lives within a larger context, including how we as individuals are connected to the experiences of others and formations of institutions.

Sociologists study and analyze at both the micro and the macro level. This means that we will, for example, look at how individuals interpret symbols or define their identities, but also at how institutions, such as families, churches, schools, and governments, shape individuals’ perceptions of themselves and others like them or, purportedly, unlike them. We will consider how things like gender, age, race, socioeconomic standing, disability, etc. influence the opportunities people have and the decisions they make. Sociologists study a broad array of topics: from McDonald’s and Disney to selfies and SAT’s; from dating and marriage to hospital gowns and Lyft/Uber. In addition to the foundational sociological theories and areas such as culture, deviance, and research methods, we will also explore Environmental Sociology, Health and Medicine, Disability, and Sports. This means that any background you bring to our class will enrich your individual as well as our collective experience and learning. Our diversity and interdisciplinarity will be strengths in this class!

Your **REQUIRED TEXT** is *Introduction to Sociology, 2nd Edition* (2015) through OpenStax. 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 the hardback copy from the PLNU Bookstore or online retailers.

<http://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introduction-to-sociology>

ISBN-10: 1938168410/ISBN-13: 978-1938168413



There will also be a few select articles and/or chapters, available as PDFs on Canvas, to help further illustrate and illuminate course concepts. It is **crucial** that students complete these readings before class meetings! Our class is structured in a way that while I will provide a brief lecture to review or give an overview of our readings, we will mostly have group work and discussions. In some cases, we will view films/documentaries and/or have guest lectures. In all cases, the key is to be prepared and be active in our learning process.

Teaching Sociology is a passion of mine, and I am excited to share this semester with you. Upon completion of this course, my prayer is that students will be able to¹:

- Identify and critique various social structures, particularly those resulting in inequality and injustice.
- Evaluate and apply social science data to inform decisions in 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 contexts and across cultures.

This class meets the PLNU **CREDIT HOUR POLICY** for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. I hope that your learning continues beyond this class, so on top of the **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES** listed above, please let me know of other spiritual, service-oriented, or career-oriented goals you may have that you hope to work toward, and we can have a conversation about how you hope this class can be helpful for you.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

I take both your spiritual growth and academic learning very seriously, not just for your sake as individuals but also so that you can be the *best version of yourself in service for the world that God loves so much*. I hope you do the same. I have carefully considered the readings and assignments for this course toward your growth.

When you read, I encourage you to take note of what new concepts you are learning and what questions they bring to mind. While I will not ask you to turn these in every day, the course builds on top of the foundational key concepts and significant debates/conversations in the field. Use these notes to prepare for your midterm and final exams, so that you do not wait until the week/day before to study. Your midterm exam is worth 15% and your final exam is worth 20%. You will also have homework and group work in class that will be worth 40% of your total grade. This means that attendance and preparedness count!

Because of the course learning outcomes listed above, it is important for your spiritual growth journey that you adapt what you are learning in this class through Service Learning. For this requirement, worth 25% of your total grade, students will: (1) select a PLNU campus ministry to participate in at least 5 times; (2) write a journal after *each* visit; (3) explicitly connect their experiences with course materials; (4) and turn these in no later than the deadlines (see course schedule). I will provide the prompts/questions for each visit/journal, as well as the select key concepts/theories to include in your sociological analysis of your observations and experiences at your service learning site. These prompts/questions and key concepts/theories will be posted on Canvas weeks ahead of the deadlines.

¹ Respectively, EP 2.1.4 (1), EP 21.6 (2), EP 2.1.1 (1, 2), EP 2.1.7 (2), and EP 2.1.4 (1).

ASSIGNMENT VALUES	
Midterm Exam	15%
Final	20%
Homework/classwork/quizzes	40%
Service Learning	25%

GRADE SCALE	
A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = 0-59

Be mindful of assignment and journal packet deadlines! All assignments are to be submitted when they are due. There will be no opportunities for make-up for missed in-class assignments or classwork, unless students have documented medical emergencies. Keep in mind the following **LATE ASSIGNMENTS** penalties:

After class	-5% of total grade earned	5-6 days late	-20% of total grade earned
1-2 days late	-10% of total grade earned	7 days late	-30% of total grade earned
3-4 days late	-15% of total grade earned	>7 days late	Not Accepted

Students with documentation for medical emergencies will need to discuss with me their revised deadlines. I also understand that sometimes students have to reprioritize due to things beyond their control. If this happens to you, please include a note with your late submission and we can deal with this on a case-by-case basis.

I welcome diverse learning abilities and styles in our class. Please contact Nichole Hope-Moore at PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) if you are qualified to register or are curious about **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**. Her number is (619) 849-2486 and e-mail address is DRC@pointloma.edu. Visit the website for additional information. The early contact with Nichole is so that she would be able to notify me within the first two weeks of the semester about how I may help provide the necessary accommodations.

Your regular and punctual attendance at all classes is essential for our community-building, shared spiritual journey, and optimum academic achievement! Per **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**, student absences for more than 10% of our class meetings may lead to a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences or tardiness exceed 20%, 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. The **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY** states that successful completion of this class requires attending the final meeting on its scheduled day: **December 13, 2017, 7:30-10AM**. Faculty members are not able to approve requests for early examinations or alternative days, or accept late finals. Plan your schedules accordingly!

COVENANT AND COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Consider this syllabus not as a contract but as a **covenant** among all of us. We are all in this together! Let us create and nurture an environment that helps us all feel loved, welcomed, and challenged-supported, a balance of understanding where we are coming from as well as extending our growth zones—hard but necessary. Toward this end, let's keep in mind the following: **RESPECT**. Respect for others is a basic element of Christian character. All discourse will be conducted in a responsible, humble, and gracious manner. What does this look like? How do we embody it?

- **Use inclusive language.** Our words have power, so let us be considerate of what we say and write and how they may impact others. Speak up/out as needed with courage, grace, and humility.
- **Give your full attention to the faculty and to your peers.** Some theologians describe prayer as attention. As we seek to become our best selves to serve God's world, let us re/consider how we act and interact in class. Put away your phones, other electronic devices, and anything that takes attention away from the task at hand, while class is in session. If your laptop receives notifications of your text messages, turn these off.
- **Come to class on time, participate actively, and do not pack your materials before dismissal.** Please plan ahead in terms of looking for parking spaces or printing materials before coming to class. We will take the entire class time, so schedule other activities around our class time.

- **Be honest with your work.** Do original work and give appropriate credit to the ideas of others. This includes proper citation formats on papers/projects. 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. Per **PLNU ACADEMIC POLICY**, faculty can assign a failing grade for that assignment/examination or for the course.
- **Say “I’m sorry for my mistake. Please teach me.”** God created us to be interdependent beings—we cannot live alone and we grow to be “more perfect in God” when we learn from each other. Let us acknowledge when we hurt each other—even without the intent to—and be humble.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by e-mail or simply visit me during my office hours. I look forward to building this learning community with you!