



Department of Sociology & Social Work
SOC 476-1 Senior Seminar in Sociology
3 Units

Fall 2017

Meeting days: Wednesday	Instructor title and name: Daniel Davis
Meeting times: 3:00 – 5:45 pm	Phone: 707-362-0186 (voicemail only)
Meeting location: Rohr Hall 111	E-mail: danieldavis@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: 12/13/17 3:00 – 5:45 pm	Office location and hours: Rohr Hall #110, after class or by apt.

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

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically evaluate social and cultural patterns, and constructively engage as agents of hope.

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. During this course students will develop and write an empirical research paper, their senior thesis. Students will also be administered standardized examinations to track overall collegiate learning as well as content-specific sociology learning (and an additional assessment for students with a criminal justice concentration). Students will also spend time preparing to pursue a chosen career path or attend postgraduate education. This course is a blend of academic rigor, personal reflection, and professional skill building.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- Shown evidence of high-quality empirical writing in sociology.
- Demonstrated quantitative literacy and ability to work with data and statistics.
- Developed a five-year plan for approaching careers and/or graduate school.
- Achieved greater professionalization and job-seeking skills.
- Formulated a personal philosophy of work and vocation.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE PRESENTED	CLASS CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
8/30/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Overview Careers: Grad School Versus the Job Market 	Syllabus
9/6/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Planning and Launch Clinic Careers: LinkedIn, Resumes, Informational Interviewing 	Senior Thesis Plan & Past Paper or Outline (1)
9/13/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Literature Review Clinic Careers: Job Shadowing, Internships, Applications 	LinkedIn Page & Resume (A)
9/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Methodology Clinic Careers: Open Topics 	2 Informational Interviews w/ Notes (B)
9/27/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Results Clinic Careers: Open Topics 	Updated Literature (2)
10/4/17	Assessment- ETS Senior Proficiency Profile (Rohr 111)	
10/11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Conclusion Clinic Careers: Open Topics & Book Presentations 	Updated Methods (3)
10/18/17	Assessment- ETS Sociology Major Field Test	
10/25/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Writing Workshop Careers: Open Topics & Book Presentations 	Updated Results (4)
11/1/17	Assessment- Criminal Justice Concentration Test	
11/8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Writing Workshop Careers: Open Topics & Book Presentations 	Updated Conclusion (5)
11/15/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Writing Workshop Careers: Open Topics & Book Presentations 	Vocational Philosophy (C)
11/22/17	<i>Thanksgiving Break - No Class</i>	
11/29/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Thesis: Writing Workshop Careers: Open Topics & Book Presentations 	Next Steps with Timeline (D)
12/6/17	Presentations	Presentations (6)
12/13/17	Presentations	Presentations & Senior Thesis Due (7)

Book presentations (E) are individually scheduled in October or November.

EXTRA CREDIT ACTIVITIES

A maximum of 5 points of extra credit can be awarded for completion of the following professionalization activities. Evidence of completion must be turned in (e.g. registration email, signed confirmation from a career counselor, email confirmations). Completion is worth 1 point for each activity, get advance permission before repeating the same one for additional points:

- Two additional informational interviews, or 6 hours of job shadowing
- Taking a standardized test (e.g. GRE, MCAT, LSAT) or related preparatory course during this semester
- Submitting a professionally relevant job application or graduate school application
- Meeting 1-on-1 with a career counselor at the Office of Strengths and Vocation (OSV)
- Attending a career fair or related OSV event during this semester
- Creation of a high-quality professional website or digital portfolio (shared with class for feedback)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

While there is no official course textbook, you are expected to read one book on professionalization and summarize it to the class along with your key takeaways and critiques. The following are examples of the kinds of books recommended for this assignment, but you may negotiate a different one that better fits your interests:

- *What Color is Your Parachute? 2018: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*, by Richard Bolles (2018)
- *There is Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow*, by Jeffrey Selingo (2016)
- *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, by Angela Duckworth (2016)
- *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker Palmer (1999)

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Additional explanations of each assignment will be given in class.

Standardized Assessments (10% Total):

- ETS Senior Proficiency, 5%
- ETS Sociology, 5%
- Criminal Justice

Senior Thesis Parts (50% Total):

1. Outline/Plan, 5%
2. Literature, 5%
3. Methods, 5%
4. Results, 5%
5. Conclusion, 5%
6. Presentation, 10%
7. Final Draft, 15%

Professionalization Activities (25% Total):

- A. LinkedIn & Resume, 5%
- B. 2 Informational Interviews, 5%
- C. Vocational Philosophy, 5%
- D. Next Steps & Timeline, 5%
- E. Book Presentation, 5%

Attendance (15% Total):

1pt Weekly = present, punctual, prepared

A=93-100	C=73-76
A-=92-90	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

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 [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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 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.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, 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. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.