



**Department of Sociology & Social Work**  
**SOC 476 Senior Seminar**  
**3 Units**

**Spring 2017**

<b>Meeting days:</b> NA	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Daniel Davis
<b>Meeting times:</b> NA	<b>Voicemail:</b> 619-849-2200 x2637
<b>Meeting location:</b> NA	<b>E-mail:</b> danieldavis@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> TBD	<b>Office location:</b> Rohr Hall #110
<b>Office Hours:</b> 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**

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**

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*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* and be administered a standardized examination for sociology (and for criminal justice, 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**

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Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- Shown evidence of high-quality empirical writing in sociology.
- Demonstrated their 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 in their life.

## 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. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE PRESENTED	Topic STW= Senior Thesis Workshop PW=Professionalization Workshop	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	Introduction- Scholarship & Professionalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grad school versus the job market</li><li>• Senior thesis overview</li></ul>	Syllabus
Week 2	Senior Thesis Launch Session	Bring Your Plan and Past Paper or Outline
Week 3	Professionalization Preparation Session	Grit, Part I with notes & Bring Your Professionalization Plan
Week 4	STW 1: Literature	Bring Lit Review & References Page
Week 5	PW 1: Self-Presentation: LinkedIn, Resume, CV, Bio Sites	Grit, Part II with notes
Week 6	STW 2: Methods & Data	Bring Methods & Data
Week 7	PW 2: Networking & Informational Interviewing	Grit, Part III with notes
Week 8	STW 3: Results	Bring Results
Week 9	Sociology Assessment- Meet in Ryan Library Lab	Sociology Assessment
Week 10	PW 3: Signing up & Applying (Grad School, Jobs, Testing)	
Week 11	STW 4: Conclusion	Bring Conclusion
Week 12	Criminal Justice Testing / Open Worktime for Non-CMJ	Criminal Justice Assessment
Week 13	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class	
Week 14	PW 4: Making Work Meaningful	
Week 15	Presentations	Senior Thesis Due
Finals	Presentations	

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Duckworth, Angela. 2016. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. New York, NY: Scribner (ISBN-13: 978-1501111105)

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

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### **I. Weekly Participation (45%)**

For each of 15 class sessions you will receive 1, 2, or 3 points for participation in the workshop for that day. Absences receive a 0. Doing work in absentia with advance permission can result in the recapturing of partial credit.

1. Present, but either came late or left early without reasonable advance permission; or was minimally prepared, expressed minimal effort, and/or distracted others.
2. Present and engaged for whole session, but mediocre effort or distracting
3. Fully present, engaged, and supportive of peer's efforts

### **II. Educational Testing Service (ETS) Tests (10%)**

You will take a standardized test to assess overall content mastery of sociology. Students are encouraged to read an introduction to sociology textbook as a review, with particular attention to key vocabulary. Criminal Justice students will take an additional assessment to test their content knowledge in criminal justice. The test score of the ETS Sociology assessment score will be translated into a proportionally equivalent score out of 10 possible points.

### **III. Senior Thesis (35%)**

The thesis paper is a capstone project that draws on all of the student's prior sociological training. Students are strongly encouraged to build on the paper they completed for their research methods course. If building a senior thesis from scratch, keep in mind that all data must be in hand by the workshop on methods and data. This means you will need to use publicly available data or be given data rather than collect your own. A departmental core competencies rubric will be distributed and used for scoring. Thesis papers will be kept digitally on file with the department. Students are encouraged to write a paper they can use as their writing sample when applying for graduate school.

### **IV. Presentation (10%)**

A presentation based on your senior thesis will be delivered at the end of the course. These will be recorded for your online portfolios or resumes. The rubric used for scoring is based on the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU) Oral Communication VALUE Rubric, which will be distributed in class.

Assignment Values:	Grade Scale:												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Participation 45%</li> <li>• ETS Sociology Assessment 10%</li> <li>• Senior Thesis 35%</li> <li>• Presentation 10%</li> </ul>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">A=93-100</td> <td style="width: 50%;">C=73-76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-=92-90</td> <td>C-=70-72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+=87-89</td> <td>D+=67-69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B=83-86</td> <td>D=63-66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-=80-82</td> <td>D-=60-62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+=77-79</td> <td>F=0-59</td> </tr> </table>	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
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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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### 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.