

	Sociology & Social Work Programs SOC 4015 - Social Theory 3 units
Fall 2020	

Meeting days: T, TH	Instructor: Professor Rachael Horn Langford
Synchronous Meeting: 1:30-2:30am, TH	E-mail: rhornlan@pointloma.edu
Meeting location: Zoom	Zoom office hours every Wednesday 10-11am and by appt.
Final Exam: Thursday, Dec 3 at 1:30pm	

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.

Foundational Explorations 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 culture.

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

“THEORY IS A MEANS, NOT AN END”

PLNU's catalog indicates “Investigation and analysis of 19th century and more recent sociological thought, and philosophical and social issues surrounding it. The relation of sociological theory and Christian thought is considered.”

In particular, this course reviews major classical theorists: Durkheim, Marx, and Weber as well as contemporary social theorists, such as Marcuse, Foucault, Hill Collins and West. The theories will be examined chronologically and conceptually; highlighting the historical context in which the theories were written. Key concepts will be applied to social issues today; making theoretical ideas accessible to you.

This course is oriented toward several specific objectives: exposure to a wide range of theoretical perspectives, developing an ability to read closely, cultivating the competence to "discover" theory and learning to discuss it coherently. We will take up theorizing as a process and as an acquired skill.

Sociological theory is valuable for the purpose of helping us understand the social world through multiple theoretical lenses regardless of which view(s) you might ultimately prefer. Such analytical thinking is critical for your **professional and personal lives** as it empowers us to move beyond the assumption that a single, ultimate explanation can be reached and to embrace the deep complexities of social life.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand and articulate the differences in sociological theorist's ideas and concepts.
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply and extend sociological concepts and theories to a range of contemporary topical issues

This is a shared learning journey. I'm in. Are you?

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 an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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

Assignment distribution:

Synchronous Participation @ 5 points each	70 (17%)
Discussion Boards @ 10 points each	130 (32%)
Surveys @ 2 points each	6 (1%)
Course Project	60 (15%)
Midterm Exam	70 (17%)
Final Exam	<u>70</u> (17%)
Total points for course	406

It is possible to earn an additional 35 points in extra credit from the various options below. Points will be added to the total class points.

EC (Week 8)	10 points possible
Voting EC (Weeks 9 & 12)	15 points possible
Film EC (Week 14)	10 points possible

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Dillon, Michele. Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts, and their Applicability to the Twenty-First Century, 2nd Edition Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-118-47192-0
2. Additional readings will be available free on Canvas

COURSE PROJECT

The Course Project is worth 15% of the grade and you have several options: from mindful volunteering, to creating an original art piece or conducting research in the community. The Course Project has you apply your sociological learning of theory outside the classroom doors through authentic hands-on experiences that offer opportunities to meaningfully serve as leaders and agents of hope and change. Projects will culminate in Presentations at the end of the semester. Refer to the Course Project information page in the Week 1 Module on Canvas for detailed instructions and due dates.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online 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 compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

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

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.

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. If you have a medical emergency, psychological crisis or death in the family, obviously I will work with you to find a way for you to make up your work. Documentation is required to do so *within two days* of missed work.

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 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. 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 POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

On another note, I will do everything in my power to make this class accessible to all students. If I am doing something that interferes with your learning, please e-mail me or come and see me in office hours. If you need assistance with course material, want to continue a discussion, or just talk, please let me know. My door is always open.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous and asynchronous** classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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 drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. A portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the Discussion assignments by the posted due dates. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

One of the goals for this class will be to stimulate creative and critical thinking which requires being involved in the analysis and discussion of various topics both synchronously and asynchronously. Participation means being prepared by doing the readings **before synchronous** class meetings and offering substantive insights and comments during class discussions. You will earn **five** points for each synchronous contribution. For **asynchronous discussions** and other assignments, I ask that you avoid using a quick google search to develop your ideas. This does not reflect thoughtful consumption of course material and results in superficial understanding. Students will need to understand the material presented and reference it when developing their answers. All work is also subject to Turnitin academic integrity tool to prevent plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Week 1	August 18, 20	<p>Intro to Course and Foundations of Social Theory</p> <p>Review Canvas logistics</p> <p>Read: <i>Intro to Sociology Review</i></p> <p>Read: Introduction in textbook</p> <p>WK1 Share WHO you are Padlet</p> <p>WK1 Survey</p> <p>WK1 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)</p>
	Due Tuesday	
	Due Tuesday	
	Due Tuesday	
Week 2	August 25, 27	<p>Foundations</p> <p>Read: Chapter 1 in textbook Karl Marx</p> <p>Read: <i>Alienated Labor</i></p> <p>Read: <i>Despite Vows for Safety</i></p> <p>Watch: "Cornel West on commodity fetishism"</p> <p>Watch: "Fashion: Last Week Tonight"</p> <p>Optional Video: "Intro to Theory: Commodity and Values"</p> <p>WK2 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)</p>
	Due Tuesday	
Week 3	September 1, 3	<p>Foundations</p> <p>Read: Chapter 2 in textbook Emile Durkheim</p> <p>Read: <i>The Attraction of Solitude</i></p> <p>Watch: "Emile Durkheim"</p> <p>Watch: Richards' TED Talk</p> <p>Optional Article: <i>How avoid Honor Killing? Honor Suicide</i></p> <p>Optional Video: "More Americans Living Alone"</p>

	Due Tuesday	WK3 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
Week 4	September 8, 10	Foundations Read: Chapter 3 in textbook Max Weber Read: <i>The Protestant Ethic</i> Optional Video: "The Four Ideal Types of Social Action"
	Due Tuesday	WK4 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
Week 5	September 15, 17	Structural-Functionalism Read: Chapter 4 in textbook Read: <i>The EpiPen, a Case Study</i> Optional Video: "Deviance"
	Due Tuesday	WK5 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
Week 6	September 22, 24	Critical Analysis Read: Chapter 5 in textbook Read: <i>How the Enlightenment Ends</i> (Canvas) Watch: "Food Inc." clip Watch: "Walmart opens in South Park"
	Due Tuesday	WK6 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
	Due Friday	Wk6 Project Proposal Assignment
Week 7	Sept 29, October 1	Conflict Theory Read: Chapter 6 in textbook Read: <i>An Embarrassment of Riches</i> Watch: "Debtor's Prison"
	Due Tuesday	WK7 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)

Midterm Exam available October 2- October 5

Week 8	October 6, 8	Symbolic Interactionism Read: Chapter 8 in textbook Read: <i>In Search of Respect</i>
	Due Tuesday	WK8 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
	Due Friday	WK8 Survey
	Due Friday	Extra Credit
Week 9	October 13, 15	Social Construction of Reality Read: Chapter 9 in textbook Phenomenology

Read: *Reality's End*
 Watch: "Sara Ahmed's killjoy theory of happiness"
 Watch: "Play like a Girl"
 Due Tuesday
 Due Friday
 WK9 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
 Voting Extra Credit: Parts 1 and 2

Week 10 October 20, 22

Contemporary Feminist Theories
 Read: Chapter 10 in textbook
 Read: *The Myth of Male Decline*
 Watch: "Judge Rules White Girl be Tried as Black Adult"
 Optional Article: Goldberg. Womens' Setbacks Covid-19
 Due Tuesday
 WK10 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)

Last Day to drop semester classes: October 23

Week 11 October 27, 29

Postmodern Perspectives
 Read: Chapter 11 in textbook
 Read: *Infinite Identities*
 Watch: "Trans Youth"
 Due Tuesday
 Due Friday
 WK11 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
 WK11 Project's Sociological Lens Assignment

Week 12 November 3, 5

Contemporary Theories of Race and Racism
 Read: Chapter 12 in textbook
 Read: The Case for Reparations
 Read: *Why Are People Still Racist?*
 Listen: Code Switch: What's in a Karen?
 Due Tuesday
 Due Friday
 WK12 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)
 Voting Extra Credit Part 3

Week 13 November 10, 12

Contemporary Theories of the Reproduction of Inequality
 Read: Chapter 13 in textbook
 Read: *Good Taste, Bad Taste?*
 Watch: "Pretty Woman Etiquette" clip
 Watch: "Art"
 Due Tuesday
 WK13 Discussion (classmate responses due Friday)

Week 14 November 17, 19 Prep for Final

Final Exam November 19

Week 15	November 24 November 26	Prep for Project Presentations Thanksgiving Break – no class
	December 1, 3`	Class Project Presentations