COM414
Long Form Broadcast News
Spring semester, 2016

J.W.August, adjunct professor
Office hours by arrangement

Required Text: Wegner & Potter (2015) 'Advancing the Story, Journalism in a Multimedia World' CQ Press

Final Exam 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.

Purpose of this course:
To develop skill sets necessary to produce in-depth storytelling on multiple broadcast platforms.

By the end of the semester you should be able to:
- Critically analyze long form news stories
- Investigate and evaluate appropriate topics for long form reports
- Write and produce long form stories for use on multiple platforms: the Internet, television and radio

Course requirements
- Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions
- Students are expected to actively participate in research and production meetings
- Students will be producing one or more projects for playback on multiple platforms.

Assignments are due in the instructor's email two hours before the next class meeting. Late assignments will not be accepted. You must meet all deadlines.

Progress reports on your projects, as well as relevant contact information, notes or documents for your project, will be placed in a Google Document you will create for the instructor's review. Once the projects begin, each progress report needs to be filed in the Google Doc by the end of Thursday's class session. You will get zero credit for the week if your progress report is late. If the instructor determines you have not made sufficient progress, the grade you receive for your progress reports will suffer.

Maintain thorough notes throughout your projects, noting sources for interviews, video, audio clips and documents. Keep email and phone number contact information with these notes. They should be included in your weekly progress report.

Student deadlines for projects will vary according to the complexity of the work as determined by the instructor.

The finished scripts will be written in industry-accepted standards for news script format and style.

You are expected to make your own arrangements for equipment needed to complete your assignment.

Professional producers and reporters plan ahead, you should not wait until the last minute to set up your shooting schedules, editing schedules or to reserve your equipment.

Any video assignments will be submitted on a flash drive.

Grading

You will be tested on reading assignments and class lectures at least once a week: 20% of your grade.

You progress reports will be evaluated once a week: 20%

Your projects will be graded on multiple elements: the project concept; degree of difficulty; how organized you are as you develop your project or projects; meeting all deadlines for scripts, shooting and editing; and your final production or productions. Each student is expected to complete one team project and two personal projects for the semester. Deadlines for those projects will be established in class: 60%

Final exam: It will cover key concepts discussed throughout the semester. This is a bonus opportunity for a student.
There is the possibility some students may exceed 100%.

Attendance

The instructor has a low tolerance for individuals who can't show up on time. It's discourteous and unprofessional. If you miss class more than 10 percent of the time, the instructor has the option of filing a written report, which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF, consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog.
This is explained in the Academic Policies section of the academic catalog:

Ethics and academic honesty

It's the foundation of journalism and a requirement of this University that students always act in an ethical manner. Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas and/or concepts as one's own when in realty they are the results of someone else's work. If you are suspected of such behaviors you could receive a failing grade. You can appeal any discipline.

Academic accommodations

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

FERPA policy

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor Social Security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of

assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.) Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the (undergrad/ graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.