



Literature, Journalism, Writing & Languages

JRN 2050 Introduction to Journalism

3 Units

Fall 2023

Meeting days/times: MWF 8:30 to 9:25 a.m.

Meeting location: Ryan Learning Center (RLC) 106

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 to 10 a.m.

Instructor title and name:	Abby Hamblin
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Office location and hours:	7:30 to 8:20 MWF in Bond Academic Center 123 or 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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

The study of the philosophy and practice of journalism with an emphasis on news gathering and writing as a process in traditional and current technological formats. Explores broadcasting, electronic media, and the role of journalists in society.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Outcome	Assessment
Demonstrate an understanding of what the First Amendment to the Constitution refers to as “the press” and how that protection impacts the news media and society.	Chapter Responses Canvas assignments Final Exam
Develop an understanding of the role news media plays in a democracy.	Quizzes on Current Events
Exhibit increasing competence in gathering and reporting news as a means for developing professional writing ability.	News Stories Canvas Assignments Quizzes on AP Style

The Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing & Languages uses the following outcomes to assess the Multimedia Journalism program.

Outcome	Assessment
Students will exhibit effective research and reporting practices including the creation and editing of a news story based on accepted industry standards and values.	Written Communication Information Literacy Critical Thinking
Students will identify and apply appropriate ethical and legal standards in their service to their communities and cultures.	Critical Thinking
Employ oral communication appropriate to various news performance situations.	Written Communication Oral Communication
The student will be able to describe how technologies shape the way people perceive and interact with the world and apply (Application) these digital tools and technologies appropriately for the communications professions in which they work.	Written Communication Information Literacy Critical Thinking Quantitative Reasoning

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

The Associated Press Stylebook 2023, 56th ed., 2022. The Associated Press.

The Journalism Behind Journalism, 1st ed., 2022. Baleria.

Talk To Me, 1st ed., 2019. Nelson.

Assessment and Grading

Your grade is based on the following areas of work:

News Stories	35%
Chapter Responses	25%
Quizzes on AP Style	10%
Quizzes on Current Events	10%
Final Exam	10%
Canvas Assignments	10%

The following grading scale represents the minimum total percentage required to receive a given final grade:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

News Stories (350 points): Students will write 10 news stories during the semester for a maximum of 35 points each. When stories are published by The Point, 10 points of extra credit will be awarded. Since spelling and deadlines are critical in journalism, they rate special emphasis in grading. News stories will be assessed for a total of 35 percent of the final grade.

Chapter Responses (250 points): Students will write 23 responses to assigned book chapters for a maximum of 12 points each. The two lowest scores will be dropped. These responses account for 25 percent of the final grade.

Quizzes on AP Style (100 points): Students will take 10 open-book quizzes on AP Style for a maximum of 10 points each. These quizzes account for 10 percent of the final grade.

Quizzes on Current Events (100 points): Students will take 10 in-class quizzes on current events valued at 10 points each. Quizzes will include one bonus question for a maximum potential of 10 points each. These quizzes account for 10 percent of the final grade.

Canvas Assignments (100 points): A series of assignments will be submitted in Canvas to learn introductory concepts in journalism and prepare students to write news stories. These exercises account for 10 percent of the final grade.

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. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Introduction to Journalism all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include violence, sexual assault, racism and other forms of discrimination, politics, and any other topic that may come up in the news. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of journalism and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Introduction to Journalism we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include violence, sexual assault, racism and other forms of discrimination, politics, and any other topic that may come up in the news. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage

you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

Deadlines for publication are set in collaboration with the editors of The Point. If you miss a deadline and the story is not of sufficient quality to be published, no credit will be given for that attempt.

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 your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

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.

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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor. These tools are new and best practices in journalism are still being defined. Use them at your own risk.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive,

and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, 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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Assignments At-A-Glance

See Canvas for deadlines, assignments, readings and quizzes.