



Instructor	Professor Lisa Balderston
Meeting Days/Times	T/TH 11:00-11:55 am
Meeting Location	Starkey B 100 (B100)
E-mail	lbalders@pointloma.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday: <u>9:45-10:45 am</u> or Thursday: <u>12:15-1:15 pm</u> (or Zoom session by appointment)
Office Location	Bond Academic Center – Room 125 (BAC 125)
Final Exam	Final Exams: December 14, 2023

PLNU Mission

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.

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.

Course Description

Literature 2000: Literature and Culture: Dramatic Writing (Plays) is a course designed as a “study of representative works of literature and cultural contexts. We will be reading and discussing dramatic writing (plays) by diverse writers who explore diversity, reflect on history, traditions, beliefs and customs of different people. We will explore how theatre can shine a light on societal problems and attempt to find solutions.

Theater has been present in various forms and cultures for at least 2,500 years. In many locations, theater as performance evolved from other ideas and customs. Due to the enjoyment people got from performing and watching such displays, it didn't take long for theatrical performance to develop into a standalone part of culture and society. In addition to things like food, customs, and way of life, theatrical traditions became a significant cultural aspect that countries had in common.

This is an upper division literature course that offers a survey of classical and contemporary dramatic writing literature. It provides the historical background of dramatic writing as well as the modern application of literature. This course is taught as a literature course, not a methods course; therefore, it provides an opportunity for students to read, analyze, synthesize, and develop an understanding of what quality dramatic writing is. While this course is focused on reading dramatic writing, it is a rigorous 2-unit upper division literature course that supports the survey of human endeavors from an historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective developing a critical appreciation of human expression in both artistic and literary forms.

Course Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation. (PLO 2,3, 5)
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
 - a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Contemporary critical approaches
 - f. Extra-literary research (PLO 2, 3, 5)
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives. (PLO 1)
4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that analyze several of the fundamental concepts of literary study with mastery increasing beyond the 200-course level (PLO 1).

Communication:

Canvas: Please check Canvas regularly, as the course materials are subject to change at any time. You will also receive announcements and grades there. The Canvas site for this class can be reached through canvas.pointloma.edu. If you need support, email oit@pointloma.edu.

Email: Email is the best way to stay in contact with me outside of class. If other circumstances interfere this course, contact me as early as possible and we will find a way to work with your situation to ensure that you still succeed in this class.

Required texts for students to purchase:

- *God of Carnage* by Yasina Reza - *French*
- *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire - *American*
- *Real Women Have Curves* by Josefina Lopez - *Mexican*
- *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage – *American (Revised List)*
- *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar - *Pakistani*
- *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley

Attendance: Attendance is required. Missing class can affect a course grade since in-class assignments cannot be made up and late papers are not accepted. Absences that exceed the PLNU absence policy of 10% will result in a letter to the Vice President for Academic Affairs requesting de-enrollment from the course. Note that arriving late or exiting class early three times will equal one absence as per the PLNU attendance policy.

LJWL Department Policy on Plagiarism: The Department of Literature, Writing, and Languages deems intellectual and academic integrity to be critical to academic success and personal development; therefore, any unethical practice will be detrimental to the student’s academic record and moral character. Students who present the work of others, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student’s work, buying a paper, or using the thoughts or ideas of others as if their own, re-using parts of or entire essays from a previous course you have taken, *as in self-plagiarizing* (using information in a paper without citation), commit plagiarism. Writing that has been edited and rewritten by anyone but the student in the class is considered to be plagiarized as well. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. In either event, a written report will be filed with the department chair and area dean. The dean will review the report and submit it to the provost and the vice president for student development. It will then be placed in the student’s academic file.

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.

Academic Accommodations: 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 accommodation. At Point Loma Nazarene University, these students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance 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. Once the student files documentation, the EAC will contact the student’s instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

Assessment & Grading:

Letter grades are converted to numerical equivalents for computation according to the following scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	C	73-76.9	D-	60-62.9
B	83-86.9	C-	70-72.9	F	0-59.9

Course Requirements:

Quizzes (20%): 4 Quizzes worth 50 points each – 200 points

Writing Projects (20%): Play Analysis (4-page) – 200 points

Midterm Exam (25%): (This will comprise of True/False & Multiple-Choice) – 250 points

Final Exam (35%): (This will comprise of True/False, Multiple-Choice, Short Answer) – 350 points

Spiritual Care:

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole people. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formations](#)

Spiritual Care:

COMPONENT	EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	DEVELOPING	UNACCEPTABLE
Frequency of participation in class	Student initiates contributions often	Student initiates contribution occasionally	Student initiates contribution infrequently	Student does not initiate contribution
Quality of comments	Comments are always insightful & constructive. Comments balanced between general impressions, opinions & specific, thoughtful criticisms or contributions.	Comments mostly insightful & constructive; mostly use appropriate terminology. Occasionally comments are too general or not relevant to the discussion.	Comments are sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight. Student does not use appropriate terminology; comments not always relevant to the discussion.	Comments are uninformative, lacking in appropriate terminology. Heavy reliance on opinion & personal taste, e.g., "I love it", "I hate it", "It's bad" etc.
Listening Skills	Student listens attentively when others present materials, perspectives, as indicated by comments that build on others' remarks, i.e., student hears what others say & contributes to the dialogue.	Students are mostly attentive when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflect & build on others' remarks.	Students are often inattentive and need reminders of focus of class. Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.	Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.

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Inclusive Language

Because the Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Language department recognizes the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, should be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.

Classroom Hospitality

I try to maintain a friendly atmosphere in class, and I encourage you to debate and voice disagreement when we discuss readings, However, I expect this to be done respectfully. This includes not talking while others have the floor and never turning discussion into a personal attack. You should also, of course, show up on time, be alert, and ensure that your behavior with technology, food, or drink is not a distraction to the students around you. As stated above, if your classroom behavior becomes an issue, your grade will suffer. I will let you know if your behavior is becoming an issue, and if problems persist further action may be taken, such as asking you to leave class.

The Wellness Counseling Center

The Wellness Counseling Center helps students maintain and develop emotional well-being to achieve their educational and personal goals and promotes a healthy and inclusive community through

relationship building, education, crisis intervention, and support. They provide short-term therapy to all undergraduate students registered for classes on the main campus, and they can recommend and refer to other resources for more long-term care and support. If you could benefit from their assistance, contact them anytime:

Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/wellness-counseling-center>

- Email: counselingservices@pointloma.edu
- Phone: (619) 849-3020

Important Deadlines:

TUG Fall 2023 Semester			
	Add Course Deadline	Drop Course Deadline	Course Withdrawal Deadline
Quad 1	1-Sep	1-Sep	29-Sep
Semester	8-Sep	8-Sep	3-Nov
Quad 2	20-Oct	20-Oct	24-Nov

Class Schedule (T/TH)

I reserve the right to change the course schedule this semester, and I will always notify you in advance of any changes. Unless otherwise noted, all readings and assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they appear on the schedule. Details for all assignments can be found on Canvas.

Week 1:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 8/29	SYLLABUS: (Review in Canvas) INTRODUCTION: <i>Plays</i> are a type of literature, specifically, dramatic literature, but what does that mean? HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 8/31	DISCUSSION: Literature & Plays LECTURE: The Course “Literature & Culture: Theatrical Plays” LESSON: The Emergence of Drama as a Literary Art & History of Theatre HOMEWORK: None

Week 2:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 9/5	LECTURE: Literature & Culture – Theatrical Plays PLAYS IN ACTION (<i>Samples</i>) HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 9/7	TOPIC: The Importance of Plays WATCH: The Great Work Begins - The Complex Themes of Angels in America HOMEWORK: Read <i>Rabbit Hole</i> (bottom of page 58 to page 66)

Week 3:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 9/12	LESSON: Text & Interpretation LECTURE: Biggest Difference Between Screenplays & Stage Play DISCUSSION: A Writer's Distinction HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 9/14	DISCUSSION: Playwright & Director -The Art of Collaboration HOMEWORK: Prepare for QUIZ #1 on 9/19 (1) What is Literature? (Types) 2) A "Play" as a Part of Literature & 3) Elements of a Play 4) What is Culture 5) The Elements of Culture and 6) How Literature (Plays) and Culture Intersect (50 Points Total)

Week 4:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 9/19	QUIZ #1 – (1) What is Literature? (Types) 2) A "Play" as a Part of Literature & 3) Elements of a Play 4) What is Culture 5) The Elements of Culture and 6) How Literature (Plays) and Culture Intersect (50 Points) LECTURE: Preparing a "Play Analysis"– 4 pages DISCUSSION: An Initial Perspective HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 9/21	DISCUSSION: A Different Point-of-View LECTURE: The Importance of Plays: HOMEWORK: Read the play <i>God of Carnage</i> for discussion

Week 5:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 9/26	LECTURE: <i>God of Carnage</i> HOMEWORK: Read <i>Sweat</i> by Lynn Nottage
Thursday 9/28	CLASS DISCUSSION: Themes in <i>SWEAT</i> HOMEWORK: Study for QUIZ #2 - God of Carnage AND Sweat (in Canvas) Quotes, you answer who said what) 50 Points Total

Week 6:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 10/3	QUIZ #2: Questions about the plays, <i>God of Carnage</i> AND <i>Sweat</i> (in Canvas) Quotes, you answer who said what (50 Points) EXPLAIN: Extra Credit Project - Basic Playwriting Exercise: Character Conflict (20 Points) DUE:11/21 Review Handout: (PDF) Playwriting Guide/Format REVIEW: Proper Play Format (see PDF) HOMEWORK: Read <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> by John Patrick Shanley
Thursday 10/5	DISCUSSION: Pulitzer Prize Winning Full-length play <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> by John Patrick Shanley (Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2005) HOMEWORK: Prepare for QUIZ #3 – Doubt & Play Format- 50 Points (DUE:10/10) Read or Watch: <i>Real Women Have Curves</i>

Week 7:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 10/10	<p>QUIZ #3: <i>Doubt – A Parable & Play Format</i> (in Canvas) 50- Points</p> <p>DISCUSSION: Aspects of <i>Real Women Have Curves</i></p> <p>DISCUSSION: <i>Real Women Have Curves</i> by Josefina Lopez (a Mexican-American playwright), think about your reflections about the following sets of issues.</p> <p>WATCH VIDEO: Interview with the cast of <i>Real Women Have Curves & Director's Take</i></p> <p>HOMEWORK: None</p>
Thursday 10/12	<p>REVIEW: Midterm Exam Review Session -True/False & Multiple/Choice questions (3 points per question = 300 points)</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Study for Midterm Exam on 10/17 (300 Points)</p>

Week 8:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 10/17	<p>MIDTERM EXAM -True/False & Multiple/Choice questions (3 points per question = 300 points)</p> <p>HOMEWORK: None</p>
Thursday 10/19	<p>FALL BREAK (No Classes)</p>

Week 9:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 10/24	<p>Extra Credit “Play” Game!</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Prepare draft of Play Analysis for peer review session on 10/26 (tomorrow)</p>
Thursday 10/26	<p>PEER REVIEW Session – Guidelines</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Prepare to submit the Play Analysis Essay</p>

Week 10:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 10/31 (Happy Halloween)	<p>PLAY ANALYSIS ESSAY: (Due: 10/31) Today!! Submit in Canvas (200 Points)</p> <p>When Live Theatre Goes Wrong</p> <p>HOMEWORK: None</p>
Thursday 11/2	<p>DISCUSSION: Questions for the Class - As a playwright... Thoughts from a Muslim Playwrights: A Play with Purpose</p> <p>HOMEWORK: None</p>

Week 11:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday	<p>LECTURE: The King of Musicals (lyric/music) - Stephen Sondheim</p>

11/7	LECTURE: The Impact of Musicals on Culture HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 11/9	Lecture & Class Discussion: How can a play/a musical raise awareness and possibly create positive change? HOMEWORK: Prepare for QUIZ #4 – The Impact of Musicals & Musicals on Culture - 50 Points Total

Week 12:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 11/14	QUIZ #4 – The Impact of Musicals on Culture - 50 Points Total LECTURE: Impact of Comedic Plays or Comedies HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 11/16	ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Neil Simon HOMEWORK: Prepare to submit the Extra Credit Writing: Play Exercise a short play 10-pages (20 Points) DUE:11/21

Week 13:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 11/21	<u>EXTRA CREDIT WRITING:</u> Submit Playwriting Exercise (in Canvas) (20 Points) (DUE: 11/21) Today! <u>NOTE:</u> Receive 10 Additional Extra Credit Points if you and a partner read it to the class. LECTURE: Elements of Theatre from Around the World HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 11/23	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

Week 14:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 11/28	STUDENT 10-Minute PLAY READING: Additional Extra Credit Opportunity: Read your scene with another person in class and receive up to 10 additional extra credit points. LECTURE: Verbatim Theatre HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 11/30	LECTURE & VIEWING: Types of Stage LECTURE: Types of Stages and Auditoria HOMEWORK: None

Week 15:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 12/5	LECTURE: Behind the Scenes of Musical Theatre HOMEWORK: None
Thursday 12/7	FINAL EXAM: Review Session LECTURE: Final Thoughts on LIT 2000: Theatre & Plays HOMEWORK: Study for Final Exam

Week 16:

Date	Class Content
Tuesday 12/12	(Study for Final Exam / No Class)
Thursday 12/14	FINAL EXAM