

WRI 1010 College Composition: Writing and Research

Fall 2023	Sections 5 & 9	4 Units
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Section 5: MWF | 10:55 AM - 12:05 PM, Bond Academic Center (BAC) 105b

Section 9: MWF | 12:15 PM - 1:20 PM, Bond Academic Center (BAC) 105b

Instructor	Alex Wirth (he/his)
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Office Hours	Drop-in MWF 2-3pm or by appointment via email.
Office Location	Bond Academic Center (BAC) 118

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.

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

From the PLNU 2023-2024 Catalog:

WRI 1010 is a comprehensive first-year composition experience in reading, writing, and critical thinking, centered on essay and research writing. The course emphasizes the processes of writing thesis-based manuscripts as an evolving product, with attention to sentence-level

conventions and coherence among well-developed paragraphs. Library research and writing the source-based essay are major components of the course. Students are encouraged to co-enroll in WRI 1000 while taking WRI 1010.

In this course, we will focus on developing transferable writing, research, and analytical skills that you will continue to strengthen and build upon throughout your time at PLNU and in your academic, vocational, and personal lives. You will develop these skills through a series of writing and research assignments and activities that expose you to the different stages of the composing process, with an emphasis on revision.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of WRI 1010, you should be able to:

1. Apply the conventions of the English language and creative skills in various forms of academic writing genres.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the stages of the writing process in academic writing: planning, drafting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing.
3. Evaluate and utilize rhetorical modes of organization in written compositions: narrative, cause/effect, compare/contrast, persuasion, process analysis, and others.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of and apply documentation formats to properly cite research in written compositions.
5. Critically analyze writing to determine point-of-view, tone, purpose, audience, and theme to enable reflection and response in written compositions.
6. Evaluate and examine differing perspectives; evaluate and locate the points of agreement and disagreement and the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

As a Foundational Explorations course, WRI 1010 helps to equip you with a broad range of knowledge and skills that will enrich not only your academic studies but also your lifelong learning and vocational service as a Christ-like participant in the world’s diverse societies and cultures. The table below highlights the specific Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes (FELO) that WRI 1010 serves alongside their corresponding course assignments and activities.

FELO	Assessment Measure
1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.	Final Portfolio
1c. Information Literacy: Students will be able to access and cite information as well as evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of information from a variety of sources.	Library research assignment

Required Texts and Materials

Ball, Cheryl E. and Drew M. Loewe. [Bad Ideas About Writing](#). West Virginia University Libraries Digital Publishing Institute, 2017.

Lunsford, Andrea A. *The St. Martin's Handbook*. 9th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2021.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas. You'll also need access to the Internet, a PLNU e-mail account, and Canvas. Plan to bring your laptop or some other device that is capable of accessing and submitting work via Canvas to every class.

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 4-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 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

WRI 1000 Writing Lab

I **strongly recommend** that you enroll in [WRI 1000 Writing Lab](#), a self-paced writing center elective course that will provide you with additional support for the writing you'll do in this course. Benefits of enrolling in WRI 1000:

- You'll meet regularly during the term with a Loma Writing Center consultant to receive personalized instruction and feedback on your writing assignments.
- You'll have access to a series of learning modules on a variety of writing topics to help guide you through your writing assignments.
- You can choose to enroll for either 1-unit or 0-units, depending on your needs, and the course operates on a pass/no credit grading system.
- You can schedule your writing consultation sessions to suit your needs.

Register for the course in Workday or contact the Records Office to ask that WRI 1000 be added to your schedule.

Major Assignments, Grade Distributions, & Due Dates

Assignment Category	Length (approx.)	Weight	Due
Writing Narrative Letter In a 750-word letter addressed to me, you will explore the role that writing has played in your past and will play in your future.	750 words	5%	September 8

Comparative Rhetorical Analysis Essay In this essay, you will compare and evaluate the rhetorical strategies used by two authors.	1000 words	20%	October 9
Research Paper For this project, you will formulate a research question and then write a research paper that responds to your question and enters an academic conversation taking place through published scholarship.	2000 words	30%	November 20
Public Argument For this project, you will “re-genre” the argument you made in your research paper to reach a public audience.	Varies	5%	December 5
Final Portfolio At the end of the course, you’ll compile a portfolio of the work you’ve completed and write a memo discussing your growth as a writer.	750 words	10%	December 13
Homework Unless otherwise specified, all homework assignments will be submitted via the course Canvas site.	Varies	15%	Most Days
In-Class Work & Activities Be sure you are on time to class each day and have completed the assigned reading.	Varies	15%	Most Days

Assessment and Grading

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

I grade all coursework not listed as a major assignment using the Canvas complete/incomplete grading system.

- A “complete” indicates that you successfully completed the assignment in a timely, thoughtful, and thorough manner.
- An “incomplete” suggests that either your work was too brief or superficial to demonstrate learning, indicated confusion or an incomplete understanding of the course concepts, failed to respond fully to the prompt, demonstrated evidence of not reading, or was missing altogether.

Finally, I do not discuss grades over email. I will be happy to talk about your grades with you at any point in the semester, and if you want to discuss your grade, email me to make an appointment.

Revision

I allow revisions for all of your major unit writing assignments except the public argument project (due to time constraints at the end of the semester). Revisions should be *substantial* (not just fixing mechanical errors), and any revisions are due within two weeks of the date I hand back graded assignments. If you choose to submit a revision for any assignment, the new grade will completely replace the original grade. (It's really rare to make your project worse by revising it, but if for some reason it happens to you, your grade will remain the same; a revision will never lower your grade, except in cases of plagiarism.)

If you wish to revise, you must:

1. Schedule an appointment with me to discuss your plans for revision.
2. Upload your revision as a re-submission to the original assignment prompt in Canvas.

Note: If you plagiarize and receive a zero as the penalty, you will not be allowed to revise the paper. (For more information about plagiarism, see "Academic Honesty" section).

Late Work

This course requires extensive reading and writing on a regular basis, and due dates are to help us all work at a manageable pace. Work is due on Canvas by the start of class on its due date, and you must complete all assignments on time to keep up with the course. But I will grant most extensions when they are needed, so please come talk to me if you're concerned or falling behind. I will also automatically drop your 2 lowest scores in the Homework and Reading Quizzes & In-Class Activities categories, so keep that in mind.

Attendance and Participation

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement, which means students are expected to attend and participate in class every day. Success in WRI 1010 is highly dependent upon interaction with your peers and the instructor. That means arriving to class on time, having completed all assigned readings and homework, and participating actively and respectfully in all class activities. Sleeping, talking, texting, being uninvolved with group work, or outright disruptive behavior can negatively impact your grade. If you are experiencing difficulty with attendance or participation, please talk with me so that we can work out an appropriate arrangement.

If you are absent for more than 10% of class sessions (4 classes for a MWF course), I will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If your absences exceed more than 20% (8 classes for a MWF course), you may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for your work and participation to that point.

Students who are absent due to illness or other emergencies do not need to submit documentation for that absence, but you should email me as soon as you are able to let me know about your absence. Should you miss a class (for any reason), it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to get notes and any other material you may have missed. Some in-class work, such as peer review workshops, cannot be made up later if they are missed.

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.

Language & 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](#).

Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. 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 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 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.

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. Any work that was created with the assistance of an AI tool at any stage in its creation must include proper attribution, which may include an in-text citation, bibliographic citation, and/or an author's note. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

Use of Technology

Most of the readings and assignments for this course will be accessed and submitted via Canvas. As such, you will need to bring a device capable of accessing Canvas with you when you are in class. Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

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 WRI 1010, 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. 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 rhetoric and writing, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Sexual Misconduct & 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 help and support 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, it is 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.

Resources

There are a lot of resources available to you as a student in this course and at PLNU. I will highlight three here that I believe are particularly useful: the Loma Writing Center, the Ryan Library, and the Wellness Counseling Center.

Loma Writing Center

Getting feedback while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You're encouraged to talk with one of the Loma Writing Center's trained consultants about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center> or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

Ryan Library

The Ryan Library is staffed by knowledgeable and helpful professionals and should be one of your first research resources throughout your time at PLNU. The easiest way to get help is to connect with a reference librarian in the "Ask a Librarian" chat window on the Ryan Library homepage at <https://libguides.pointloma.edu/ryanlibrary>. You can also stop by the "Research Help" desk inside the Ryan Library.

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

If you need emergency assistance, please call 911 or the Access and Crisis Line at (888) 724-7240.

Class Schedule (MWF)

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.

*BIAW = Bad Ideas About Writing
SMH = St. Martin’s Handbook*

Week 1: Course Introduction

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 8/28	Welcome & Course Introduction		
W 8/30	What is “Writing”?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BIAW</i> Wardle, pp. 30-33 	Personal Introduction
F 9/1	Writing as Conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunsford, “Writing is Informed by Prior Experience” (on Canvas) • <i>BIAW</i> Parrott, pp. 71-75 	Prompt: Writing in Your Field

Week 2: Writing Narrative Essay

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 9/4	<i>Labor Day – no class</i>		
W 9/6	A Genre Approach to Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BIAW</i> Carillo, pp. 34-37 • <i>BIAW</i> Brooks, pp. 60-63 	
F 9/8	Peer Review Workshop		Draft of Writing Narrative

Comparative Rhetorical Analysis Unit

Week 3: What is a Rhetorical Situation?

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 9/11	Introduction to Rhetorical Situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BIAW</i> Roberts-Miller, pp. 7-12 	Writing Narrative
W 9/13	Comparative Rhetorical Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 3, "Rhetorical Situations," pp. 26-36 	Prompt: Rhetorical Situations
F 9/15	Audience, Audience, Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 CRA texts 	Prompt: CRA Text Selections

Week 4: Analyzing Rhetorical Situations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 9/18	Rhetorical Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 10, "Analyzing Arguments," pp. 125-143 	Prompt: Identifying the Target Audience
W 9/20	Rhetorical Analysis in Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRA text 	Rhetorical Situation Analysis Report #1
F 9/22	Comparing Rhetorical Situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRA text • <i>SMH</i> chapter 9, "Reading Critically," pp. 108-124 	Rhetorical Situation Analysis Report #2

Week 5: Writing a Comparative Rhetorical Analysis

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 9/25	Thesis Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> section 4c, "Drafting a Working Thesis Statement," pp. 44-46 • <i>SMH</i> section 11d, "Making a claim & drafting a working thesis statement," pp. 147-148 	CRA Thesis Statement
W 9/27	Work Day – Get busy drafting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> sections 4e-4g (Organizing, Planning, and Drafting), pp. 47-59 	CRA Outline
F 9/29	Peer Review Workshop		CRA Messy Draft

Week 6: Conferences

Research Paper Unit

Week 7: Preparing to Research

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 10/9	CRA Reflections Discuss Research Paper Assignment		Comparative Rhetorical Analysis
W 10/11	Developing a Research Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 12, “Preparing for a Research Project,” pp. 172-179 • <i>BIAW</i> Witte, pp. 226-230 • <i>BIAW</i> Wierszewski, pp. 231-235 	Prompt: Topic Brainstorming
F 10/13	Library Day #1 – meet in Ryan Library	Bring computers	

Week 8: Locating & Evaluating Sources

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 10/16	Library Day #2 – meet in Ryan Library	Bring computers	Library Research Assignment
W 10/18	Crafting a Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McClure, “Googlepedia” (on Canvas) 	Prompt: Preliminary Research Question
F 10/20	<i>Fall Break – no class</i>		

Week 9: Analyzing & Synthesizing Sources

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 10/23	Annotated Bibliographies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 13, “Conducting Research,” pp. 180-190 	Research Proposal
W 10/25	Reading Scholarly Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 14, “Evaluating Sources & Taking Notes,” pp. 191-208 	2 Annotations
F 10/27	Documenting Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SMH</i> chapter 9, “Reading Critically,” pp. 108-124 	2 Annotations

Week 10: Using Evidence Effectively

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 10/30	Joining the Conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMH chapter 15, "Integrating Sources," pp. 209-217 	Annotated Bibliography
W 11/1	Academic Genres		Academic Genre Analysis
F 11/3	Writing for Academic Audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMH ch. 17, "Writing a Research Project," pp. 227-235 • SMH section 11d, "Making a claim & drafting a working thesis statement," pp. 147-148 	Thesis Statement & Reasons Expressed as Because Clauses

Week 11: Conferences

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 11/6	Conferences – Rather than meeting together as a class this week, you will bring a complete draft of your Research Paper to your scheduled writing conference.		Draft of Research Paper
W 11/8			
F 11/10			

Week 12: Polishing Your Argument

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 11/13	Revision Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIAW Giovanelli, pp. 104-108 	Revised Draft of Research Paper
W 11/15	Avoiding Plagiarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMH chapter 16, "Acknowledging Sources & Avoiding Plagiarism," pp. 218-226 	
F 11/17	Proofreading Workshop		

Week 13: Research Project Reflection

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 11/20	Research Project Reflection		Research Paper Due
W 11/22	<i>Thanksgiving Recess – no class</i>		
F 11/24	<i>Thanksgiving Recess – no class</i>		

Public Argument Unit

Week 14: Writing for Public Audiences

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 11/27	Public Genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMH chapter 24, "Communicating in Other Media," pp. 387-391 	Public Genre Analysis
W 11/29	Remediation		Public Argument Plan
F 12/1	Peer Review Workshop and Portfolio Workshop		Draft of Public Argument

Week 15: Asynchronous Writing Week

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
M 12/4	One on one Zoom conference available by Appointment		Public Argument Due
T 12/5	One on one Zoom conference available by Appointment		
W 12/6	Writing in Your Future. No class meeting today but note asynchronous reading and assignment (choose one: A or B) due Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMH chapter 25, "Writing Well in Any Discipline or Profession," pp. 394-402 	Asynchro Assignment A: Letter to Your Future Self who is Freaking Out Staring at a Blank Page.
F 12/8	Work on your Final Portfolio- No class meeting. Connect with your fellow classmates on your own for peer review.		Asynchro Assignment B: Peer Review Survey

Final Portfolio Due Wednesday, 12/13, 5pm