



Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences/College of Natural and Social Sciences

## **CSC/ISS/MTH4081 Senior Seminar**

1 unit

*Spring 2024*

**Monday 4:05 – 5:15 pm**

**RS 395**

**Final Exam: Wednesday, 4:30 – 7:00 pm**

<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE</b>
<b>Instructor title and name:</b>	Jesús Jiménez-Reyes, Professor of Mathematics
<b>Email:</b>	jjimenez@pointloma.edu
<b>Office location and hours:</b>	Rohr Science 234. MWF 9:00 – 11:30 am

### **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.

### **DEPARTMENT MISSION**

The Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences department at Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to maintaining a curriculum that provides its students with the tools to be productive, the passion to continue learning, and Christian perspectives to provide a basis for making sound value judgments.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This one-unit capstone course is a seminar in which students give lectures on topics of general interest in computer science, information systems and mathematics. Issues related to vocation are discussed.

Prerequisites: Senior standing or Junior standing if a December graduate.

## PROGRAM AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This class is a capstone course for our majors. The learning outcomes are:

1. Students will be able to apply their technical knowledge to solve problems.
2. Students will be able to speak about their work with precision, clarity and organization.
3. Students will be able to write about their work with precision, clarity and organization.
4. Students will be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and cite information for the task at hand.
5. Students will be able to gather relevant information, examine information and form a conclusion based on that information.
6. Students will be able to understand and create arguments supported by quantitative evidence, and they can clearly communicate those arguments in a variety of formats.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

There are no text books for this class. There will be readings uploaded in Canvas as well as reading for the specific topic that you will be using for your final report.

## 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 1-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 37.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This class is graded pass/fail as determined by requirements described in this syllabus and on the class schedule. You will have a number of intermediate assignments that you must complete and turn in via Canvas. **Note that there are four ways to fail this course:**

1. Missing the **mock interview**.
2. Missing the **GE exam**.
3. Poor performance on the **oral or written presentation** (this includes not completing the presentations).
4. **Lack of participation**. We will abide by the "3 strikes and you're out" policy. There are number of ways to earn a strike. You can get a strike for missing class, failing to turn in a vocation or mock interview reflection on time (or several sub-par reflections), missing the syllabus quiz, or consistently not being mentally present during class (texting, emailing, social media, etc).

Regarding the oral and written presentations, you will not get credit for an item unless it appears to your advisor that the expected amount of time, as defined below, has been spent on each item.

In depth reading/outline prep	10 hours
First paper draft	5 hours
PowerPoint draft	4 hours
PPT/Paper revisions	6 hours

For each day that an assignment related to these presentations is late, **one page will be added to the length of the written report.** For example, if the paper outline is 2 days late, and the PowerPoint draft is 1 day late, you will have to write 3 extra pages.

The rubrics use a 1-4 grading scale with 4 being a high score. You will not pass if you receive an average of less than 2.5 on either your written report or your oral report. You can see the rubrics in the module for week 1.

Note that you get a number grade for each assignment. These grades are just so I can keep track of what was turned in, and the quality of the work turned in. They are only indirectly related to the final grade.

### **WRITING ABOUT VOCATION**

You will be given a weekly reading assignment from one of the two texts on vocation. Along with that reading you will be given a list of questions for reflection. Your responses to those comments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Friday night before the next class (see schedule for the readings). Inadequate participation in written assignments could lead to a failing grade.

### **MOCK INTERVIEWS**

Everyone in the class will be expected to schedule a mock interview and resume review through the Office of Strengths and Vocation (OSV). Details will be handed out in class.

### **SENIOR SEMINAR AND WRITTEN ORAL REPORT**

Near the start of the semester you will work with a faculty member in your major to select a topic for giving a written (min 9 pages including abstract, bibliography, and table of contents) and an oral (10 minutes + 3 minutes for questions) report. This should be done using technology and terminology standard to your discipline. The reports will be scored by faculty using rubrics (which are included in the module for week 1). Your topic must include things that you have learned outside of regular coursework. You may report on your honors thesis, your service learning project, your internship, or a topic from your discipline that you want to learn more about. If the report is based on work done with a group, you must do your own unique presentation and report. The material must not overlap substantially with material presented by others in the class. It may be necessary to do additional work or

to concentrate on different aspects of your project. Be sure to discuss this with your advisor before working on your report or presentation.

### **WRITTEN REPORT INSTRUCTIONS**

You will be writing a paper of at least 9 pages in length (including abstract, bibliography, and table of contents). Please be sure to pay attention to all of the critical elements of a well written paper:

- Clear structure that includes an abstract, table of contents, clear sections, a summary/conclusion and a bibliography
- A clear statement at the beginning of the paper about the main topic covered by the paper
- Carefully crafted language
- Good transitions between sections
- Appropriate grammar and spelling
- Do not use the first person in writing the paper, good scientific writing is always in the third person. Your paper should not read like a summer travel log.
- Careful use of references to support your points. Ideas should be attributed and references should be quoted or cited in the body of the paper as appropriate and there should be a link between the citation and the bibliography (pick one style and stick with it - MLA or APA is fine).
- You should not just report the ideas of others but should synthesize them to draw your own conclusions.

**It goes without saying that the content should be true and substantive.**

Before you turn in your paper, look at the Written Report rubrics and verify that you have covered all topics. Note that your paper will be discussed in class with your advisor. You should make adjustments to your paper based on that input.

*What to turn in:* Your final paper and your self-assessment of your own work using the Written Report Rubrics should be turned in via Canvas.

### **ORAL PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

You will give a 13-minute presentation on your topic in class (10 minutes of presentation and 3 minutes for questions). Here are some important things to keep in mind:

- You should focus on extracting the most relevant information from your paper for the presentation.
- 15 minutes is a much shorter period of time than you imagine, practice repeatedly and time yourself.
- Project your slides in a classroom and stand at the back of the room. Can you see all important graphics and figures? If not, make the text larger.
- Find ways to engage the class. Have them do an activity, answer a question, make a guess about an example, etc.
- You should not read your slides during the presentation. You should be familiar with the material and the order of the slides so that you can make eye contact with the class. Practice, practice, practice.

- While you are practicing, have someone record you using a phone or camera. When you look at yourself talking you will gain some insights about good and bad habits and can prepare your final talk accordingly.
- Empty your pockets.... One of the most annoying tics that people display when giving a talk is rattling keys, change, etc. in their pockets. Remove the temptation.

Be sure to take a look at the Oral Presentation Rubric before you give your presentation. The rubric will guide you in making sure that your slides are well prepared and that you are ready to talk to a group.

*What to turn in:* A final copy of your PowerPoint slides via Canvas.

### **FINAL EXAM - Wednesday, May 1 from 4:30-7:00 pm**

The final exam date and time is set by the university at the beginning of the semester and may not be changed by the instructor. This schedule can be found on the university website and in the course calendar. No requests for early examinations will be approved. Only in the case that a student is required to take three exams during the same day of finals week, is an instructor authorized to consider changing the exam date and time for that particular student. We will meet at the final exam time for a “summative experience.”

### **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 [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam 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.

### **PLNU SPRING 2023 GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) EXAM**

As per the assessment requirements of the school, a GE exam will be administered in an effort to determine how well our GE classes have met PLNU's objectives. The date is Feb ???. Class will be from **4:00-5:30pm on that day**. If you do not take the exam, you will fail the class. Late exams may be taken only by prior arrangement or with a documented emergency. I must participate in the decision for you to miss the exam; this means that you need to contact me before missing the exam.

### **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 [class name], 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 [list topics]. 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 [subject/major], 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 [class name], we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include [list topics]. 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**

The policy for incomplete and late assignments is detailed earlier in this document. In summary, vocation readings that are late or missed count as a strike. Three strikes will likely result in a failure of the class. A missing presentation will also result in failure of the class, as will missing the GE exam or a mock interview. Late assignments related to the oral and written presentations will result in extra pages for the written paper.

Additionally, a missed oral presentation can be re-scheduled once at a cost of 3 written pages. The written paper with any required additional pages will not be accepted after 5/14 (one week late).

## **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 you 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.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://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.

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid 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, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

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

## LOMA WRITING CENTER

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center 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 are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant 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 [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.