



Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing & Languages

JRN3050 – Special Topics in Journalism | 3 Units | Fall 2024

MWF 8:30 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

Cabrillo Hall 101 (C 101)

Final Exam: Friday, 12/20, 7:30 – 10 a.m.

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Guimel Sibingo
Phone:	619-849-3099
Email:	gsibingo@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	MWF: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. TR: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Focuses on current aspects of journalism with a different concentration each time it is offered. May be repeated for credit as content varies up to six units.

This semester’s course will be focused on podcasting. The landscape of journalism is always changing. Audio storytelling has become a go-to medium for delivering news and information. This course will

explore the business, content, production and delivery of podcasts. Gain insight and hands-on practice by creating your own episodes using multiple podcasting styles.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end this course, you should have obtained the knowledge and skills necessary to produce podcast shows and episodes.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Outcomes	Assessment
Demonstrate understanding of how podcasting works, industry norms and strategies for independent podcasters.	Canvas module assignments Quizzes
Analyze the effectiveness of recording, editing and writing techniques for audio storytelling.	Canvas module assignments Presentation
Develop a podcast concept along with unique story ideas for episodes.	Canvas module assignments Branding
Create and publish multiple podcast episodes.	Canvas module assignments Interview episode Narrative episode

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

NPR's Podcast Start Up Guide, 1st ed., 2021. Weldon.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade is based on the following areas of work:

Canvas Modules	20%
Interview Episode	15%
Narrative Episode	30%
Branding	10%
Presentation	10%
Quizzes	15%

Grades will be based on the following:

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-
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62

Canvas Modules (200 points): A variety of assignments will be given in Canvas that may include research, responses to readings, written analysis, and other project elements. These assignments will be assessed for a total of 20% of the final grade.

Podcast Episode 1 (150 points): The first project is an interview style podcast episode. You will propose the topic, guest and tone. The introduction and ending will be scripted. Appropriate music will be edited into the introduction and ending. The interview, production elements and overall quality will be assessed for a total of 15% of the final grade.

Podcast Episode 2 (300 points): The second project is a narrative style podcast episode. This will involve research, multiple interviews, field sound and effective storytelling structure. The overall storytelling and production quality will be assessed for a total of 30% of the final grade.

Branding (100 points): Create branding elements for two podcasts, which may include cover art, logos, descriptions and other visual assets. These branding elements will be assessed for a total of 10% of the final grade.

Presentation (100 points): Give a presentation about an established podcast pro including background on the host(s), business model, content scope, branding and social media strategy, and highlight examples from representative episodes.

Quizzes (150 points): Three quizzes will be given during the course based on the readings. The overall point value for quizzes will account for 15% 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 [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.

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 JRN3013 – Special Topics in 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. I will do my best to create a safe space for your honest opinions, thoughts and questions. 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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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 RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined 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 me.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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.

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.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

COURSE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

See Canvas for deadlines, readings and quizzes.