



The Honors Program

HON 1001: Rhetoric: Critical Communication

4 Units, Fall 2025

MWF 8:30 am – 9:35 am

Evans Hall 114

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 15th, 7:30 – 10:00 am

Professor Pate

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Course Description: HON 1001: Rhetoric: Critical Communication (GE) (4)

This course sharpens students' rhetorical skills through research-based written and oral communication assignments. It also introduces students to and equips them for critical analysis of various written, oral, and visual media.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete Rhetoric: Critical Communication will be able to:

- 1) Apply English language conventions in various genres of academic writing (PLO2)
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge of the process of academic writing and speaking (PLO2)
- 3) Evaluate and utilize rhetorical modes of organization to create written compositions and speeches (PLO1, 4)
- 4) Evaluate the authority and expertise of various sources of information (PLO1, 2)
- 5) Construct and deliver invitational speeches and project presentations (PLO4)

Required Texts:

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

(This text is identified as SMH for the reading assignments in the syllabus)

Griffin, Cindy, L. *An Invitation to Public Speaking*. 5th ed. Cengage Learning, 2014.

*Either the 4th or 5th edition is acceptable.

(This text is identified as IPS for the reading assignments in the syllabus.)

Additional readings and resources will be posted on Canvas or available at [The Purdue OWL](#).

Required Materials:

A writing notebook/journal of your choice

The obvious things: pen/pencil, loose-leaf paper, folder for storage, etc.

Digital Statement

The Humanities Honors Program strongly encourages students to take notes by pen and paper. Neuroscience confirms that students process and retain information better and are less easily distracted than with using a computer. However, if a student has a demonstrable need to take notes digitally, they may make special arrangements with the instructor.

Course Norms Related to Instruction

1. Students are expected to come to class on time, stay for the duration, and not carry on side conversations during lecture. In other words, students are expected to be active participants in the learning process.
2. All written work must be typed, and attention should be paid to form and writing conventions (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, formatting, and general appearance) as well as content.
3. Integrity is of great importance. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of "F." Additionally, for our class's purposes, the speaking and writing process is often collaborative, and students share and borrow from each other all the time. There are ways to do this that are acceptable (such as taking suggestions from a professor or a peer), but there are also ways to use other people's ideas or words in a way that is considered plagiarism (such as passing off somebody else's work—even just a sentence—as your own). We will discuss this further in class. If you have questions about proper citation and documentation of any sources you are using, please ask us. Review the sections in our manual that cover MLA Style, especially the section on "Acknowledging Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism" (SMH 218-26) and "Documenting Sources" (238-86). Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.
4. Inclusive Language Statement: Because language is powerful and shapes the way we think, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, will 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. See the following resources for more detailed information: "Language that Builds Common Ground" (SMH 471-75), "[Appropriate Language](#)" at *The Purdue OWL*, CSU's [Diversity Style Guide](#)
5. Classroom disruption by cell phones or other electronic devices (i.e. text messaging) is prohibited. All laptops, cell phones, and similar electronic devices must remain turned off and out of sight for the duration of class. A student may face a zero and/or failure in the class if an electronic device is used for cheating.
6. Please DO NOT disrupt class while students are presenting. This includes walking in and out of the classroom.
7. Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative. You should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the class.

8. Your PLNU email account/Canvas announcements should be checked daily. This is the way we will most frequently communicate with you outside of class, and it's also the way the University distributes important information.

9. This syllabus serves as the contract between the students and professors. Your continued enrollment in the course serves as an agreement to abide by the policies and information set forth here and not to expect exceptions to be made for you.

CLASS POLICIES

Grade Distribution: In order to receive credit for the course, all of the following must be completed. **Failure to complete any major assignment will result in failure of the course.**

Research Paper	20% - 100 pts
My Favorite TED Talk Speech & outline	10% - 50 pts
Invitational Speech	20% - 100 pts
Other Assignments*	<u>50% - 250 pts</u>
	100% - 500 pts

*Formal Email, Outline, Note Cards, Mini Speeches, Field Report, Follow-Up, Annotated Bibliography, Peer Feedback, Article Reviews, Self-Analysis, etc.

Grade Scale:

A- = 90-93%; A = 94-97%; A+ = 98-100%: Excellent (*Phenomenal work that far exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; excellent logic, structure, and organization; virtually no grammar and punctuation errors; engaged in class lecture and discussion; Comprehensive excellence is needed for a superlative grade in this course.*)

B- = 80-83%; B = 84-87%; B+ = 88-89%: Above average (*Excellent work that exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; no major problems with logic, structure, and organization; very few grammar and punctuation errors.*)

C- = 70-73%; C = 74-77%; C+ = 78-79%: Average (*Good work that meets the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have minor problems with logic, structure, and organization; may have some grammar and punctuation errors; midpoint between extremes of excellence and failure.*)

D- = 60-63%; D = 64-67%; D+ = 68-69%: Below average (*Poor work that does not fully meet the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have some problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may hinder meaning.*)

F = 59% and below: Failure (*Poor work that does not fulfill the assignment; may have serious problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may obscure meaning.*)

Attendance & Participation: Because discussion will be an important part of our class, your regular attendance and participation are required for you to be successful. Your first two absences will not count against your grade, but use them wisely. For each additional absence, your total grade will be lowered by 2%; **if you miss class more than 6 times (over 2 weeks), you will automatically fail this course.** Coming to class unprepared, staring at a screen, or being disruptive in class will also count as an absence. Also, since arriving late to class is distracting to your classmates (and to your professors), you are expected to arrive on time. Two late arrivals will count as one absence.

Readings: Readings are due on the date they're listed in the course outline. Always bring your copy of the assigned reading to class with you for use in discussion. Read actively and make notes directly on the text and/or on the side.

Mini Speeches: We will have two "mini speeches" (Introductory & Toast) this semester. The purpose of these mini speeches is to give you more practice with speaking in front of a group. These speeches will not be graded, but you will receive 10 participation points for thoughtful preparation and delivery of each. Mini speeches must be completed on the designated class period on the schedule and cannot be made up or completed early.

My Favorite TED Talk Speech: In this short class presentation, you will share about your favorite TED/TEDX Talk and why it is important to you. This assignment is designed to prepare you for your longer Invitational Speech, so you will practice incorporating a proper introduction and conclusion, organization of main points, and supporting material for why you love the talk.

Major Assignments: Over the course of the semester you will draft, revise, and edit two major assignments: a research paper, and an invitational speech (and outline). Due dates are listed on the course outline and more specific prompts for the assignments will be distributed as noted. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in failure of the course.

Peer Response Workshops/Feedback: On some occasions you will get into peer groups and give each other feedback on assignments. We will give you more detailed instructions before each peer response workshop. You will also be assigned to give peer feedback during speeches.

Student-Directed Conferences: During the semester you must meet with us at our offices during assigned conference times to discuss your research, writing, and speaking. Dates for these mandatory conferences are in this syllabus and in Canvas. This will be part of your attendance grade. Feel free to meet with us more than these times as well!

Due Dates: Dates when assignments are due are listed on the attached course outline; all written assignments are due at the beginning of class or at the Canvas due date. The speeches are due on the speech date that you will sign up for in advance. Your speech date is your commitment and should not be changed. Speech makeups are only permitted in the rare instance of a documented illness or personal emergency *and* you have notified us in advance of the speech day.

We highly encourage you to visit with us one-on-one during office hours to run ideas, drafts, or any questions by us. Once an assignment receives a grade, there will be no further opportunities to revise for a new grade. *Late work is not acceptable.* If unusual circumstances will keep you from completing an assignment on time, please make arrangements with us for an extension BEFORE the due date if possible (or if you wake up sick, please email us before class begins to let us know you will be absent and make a plan for assignment submission as soon as you are able). Please complete all readings on time as well. All coursework must be completed by the end of our final exam period. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

Extra Credit: Writing events go on frequently at PLNU and in our larger San Diego community. Attend an author lecture, reading, or workshop and write a 1-2 page critical analysis and reflection over what was said and how you can apply it to your reading and/or writing. Due within one week of the event. This will earn you up to 5 extra points (up to 2 times).

Final Course Grades: Final course grades will be submitted electronically at the conclusion of the semester by the deadline set forth by the University. Any questions regarding final grades need to be addressed within two weeks of the class ending and must be sent in writing to the professors. Grade inquiries beyond that time will not be allowed.

Course Schedule FA 2025

This is a tentative course schedule. Any changes will be made orally in class, posted in Canvas, and/or sent via email.

Date	Class Plan	Preparation
W Sept 3	Welcome and Course Introduction Discuss Introductory Speech	*Introductory speech due next class
F Sept 5	Introductory Speech	Review the syllabus and put important dates in your planner or phone. Prepare Introductory Speech
M Sept 8	Email Etiquette Introduce Field Interview	Read: Email Etiquette links (Canvas) SMH Ch. 3 "Rhetorical Situations" (24-36); SMH Ch. 29 "Writing in Professional Settings" (424-35)
W Sept 10	Expectations for College Writing Research Paper assigned Creating A Research Question	Due: Formal Email Read: SMH Ch. 2 "Expectations for College Writing" (14-25); SMH Ch. 3 "Rhetorical Situations" (26-36)
F Sept 12	Conducting Research	Read: SMH Ch. 12 "Preparing for a Research Project" (172-79); SMH Ch. 13 "Conducting Research" (186-88)
M Sept 15	Note Cards: Quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing practice	Read: SMH Ch. 14 "Evaluating Sources and Taking Notes" (191-208); SMH Ch.16 (218-26)
W Sept 17	Annotated Working Works Cited (Bibliography)	Due: Research topic and research question Read: SMH p. 193; scan SMH Ch. 18 "Acknowledging Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism"
F Sept 19	Meet in the Main Computer Lab in Library at 8:30 a.m.	Due: Field Interview Read: SMH Ch. 14 (193); SMH Ch. 18 "MLA Documentation Style" (276-86)
M Sept 22	Meet in the Main Computer Lab in Library at 8:30 a.m.	Work on Library Assignment

W Sept 24	In Class: Thesis/Main Claim workshop	Due: Tentative thesis and Note Cards from library research Read: SMH Ch. 4 "Exploring, Planning, Drafting" (52-53) Continue to research and take notes
F Sept 26	In Class: Commas save lives!	Due: Full Annotated Bibliography/Working Works Consulted Sentence type analysis Read: Ch. 56 (638-51) Continue to research and take notes
M Sept 29	Developing an Argument	Read: SMH Ch. 11 "Constructing Argument" (144-69); SMH Ch. 5 "Developing Paragraphs" (60-77) Continue to research and take notes
W Oct 1	In Class: Outline workshop	Read: SMH Ch. 4 "Exploring, Planning, and Drafting" (52-53); SMH Ch. 17 "Writing a Research Project" (229-30)
F Oct 3	In Class: Writing the Research Paper	Due: Outline in class (hard copy) and on Canvas Read: SMH Ch. 15 "Integrating Sources (209-17); SMH Ch. 16 "Acknowledging Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism" (218-26); SMH Ch. 17 "Writing a Research Project" (227-35)
M Oct 6	In Class Writing Workshop	Read: SMH Ch. 6 "Reviewing, Revising, and Editing" (73-97) and SMH Ch. 17 "Writing a Research Project" [17c-17h] (230-235) Bring: outline, note cards, computer
W Oct 8	Out of class writing day	
F Oct 10	Sign up for Conferences	Due in class: Research Paper Draft 1–min. 7 page draft, accurately cited with properly formatted Works Cited, and outline. Due on Canvas: Research Paper Draft 1–min. 7 page draft, accurately cited with properly formatted Works Cited
M Oct 13	Conferences in BAC 117 Out of class writing day	Bring computer, note cards, and questions
W Oct 15	Conferences in BAC 117 Out of class writing day	Bring computer, note cards, and questions

F Oct 17	Draft 2 (10-12 pages) for peer review	Due in class: Research Paper 10-12 page, accurately cited with properly formatted Works Cited, revised outline, note cards, and questions. Read: SMH Ch. 1 “The Top Twenty” (2-11)
M Oct 20	Final Research Paper Celebrate the Scholars! Transitioning from scholar to informed speaker Introduce toasts	Due in class in envelope: 1. Final Research Paper accurately cited 10-12 page focused research paper with a properly formatted Works Cited 2. revised outline that matches the content of the final draft 3. hard copy draft 1 with outline (Oct. 10) 4. hard copy draft 2 with outline (Oct. 17) 5. note cards in rubber band Due on Canvas: 1. Final Research Paper accurately cited 10-12 page focused research paper with a properly formatted Works Cited
W Oct 22	In Class: Toasts	Prepare Toast Note: You must be present during this class to present your toast. This mini speech cannot be given early or made up.
F Oct 24	<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>No Class</i>
M Oct 27	Intro to Public Speaking & Effective Listening	Read: IPS chapters 1 & 2
W Oct 29	Speech Topics and Audiences Introduce “My Favorite TED Talk” Speech	Read: IPS Ch 3 & 4
F Oct 31	In Class: Discuss Speech Anxiety Introduce speech outline	Read: Rothwell’s Practically Speaking Chapter 2: Speech Anxiety (Canvas) Due: Written Response to Questions on Rothwell
M Nov 3	In Class: Conversational practice on selected TED Talks; Introductions & Conclusions	Due: Commitment to your selected TED Talk (post on Canvas discussion board) Read: IPS Ch 7 & 8
W Nov 5	In Class: Quoting and Paraphrasing in speeches Work on speech outline	

F Nov 7	In Class: Delivery Plans & Delivery Practice	Read: IPS Ch. 10 Due on Canvas: TED Talk speech outline by Sun Nov 9th at 11:59 pm
M Nov 10	My Favorite TED Talk Speech	
W Nov 12	My Favorite TED Talk Speech Introduce the Invitational Speech	Read: IPS Ch 13
F Nov 14	My Favorite TED Talk Speech	
M Nov 17	In Class: TED Talk Speech Reflection, Introduce Invitational Speech outline and sign up for speech dates; Creating Powerful Questions	
W Nov 19	Conferences- out of class speech work day	Conferences with Dr. Raser. Bring a question(s) and a draft of your Invitational speech outline.
F Nov 21	Conferences- out of class speech work day	Conferences with Dr. Raser. Bring a question(s) and a draft of your Invitational speech outline.
M Nov 24	In Class: Developing and Supporting Your Ideas <i>Who Would Win?</i> Visual Aids	Read: IPS Ch 6 & 11
W Nov 26	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>No Class</i>
F Nov 28	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>No Class</i>
M Dec 1	In class: Complete outline draft peer workshop	Due on Canvas: Complete speech outline draft

W Dec 3	In class: Conferences & visual aid prep Work on outline, notecards, and slides.	Conferences as needed with Dr. Raser
F Dec 5	Invitational Speeches Complete Peer Feedback	Due on the day you speak: slides and outline on Canvas; notecards in class
M Dec 8	Invitational Speeches Complete Peer Feedback	Due on the day you speak: slides and outline on Canvas; notecards in class
W Dec 10	Invitational Speeches Complete Peer Feedback	Due on the day you speak: slides and outline on Canvas; notecards in class
F Dec 12	Invitational Speeches Complete Peer Feedback	Due on the day you speak: slides and outline on Canvas; notecards in class
Final Mon. Dec 15 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Invitational Speeches Complete Peer Feedback	Due on the day you speak: slides and outline on Canvas; notecards in class

Important Statements & Policies

PLNU Mission Statement

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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Honors Mission Statement

The Humanities Honors Program exists to promote greater understanding of diverse human traditions of self-awareness and creativity. Examining these traditions in light of the Christian faith and liberal methods of learning, students excel in their abilities to interpret and discuss written, visual, and sonic texts within theological and interdisciplinary frameworks. Students take their education beyond the classroom in extracurricular activities, as well as in works of service and mercy as informed by the Wesleyan tradition.

General Education Mission Statement

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.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty

member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires being present to participate in the final assignment on the scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early presentations or alternative days will be approved. 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 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

This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills that you develop throughout the semester; therefore, your primary focus should be on cultivating these skills. Given the purpose of this course, you are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) 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 questions or concerns about using AI, please discuss them with your professors. Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity.

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 619-849-2533). 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. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

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 accommodations.

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 distance education outside 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.

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](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu