



School of Humanities, Arts, and Public Engagement

JRN3050 Special Topics in Journalism | 3 Units

Fall 2025

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Meeting Days & Times:	TR 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Meeting Location:	Cabrillo Hall 104 (C104)
Final Exam:	Thursday, 12/18, 4:30 – 7 p.m.
Instructor title and name:	Guimel Sibingo, Assistant Professor of Journalism
Office Phone:	619-849-3099
Email:	gsibingo@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Bond Academic Center 118 Monday: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. 1-4 p.m. Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. 1-2 p.m. Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. 1-2 p.m. Friday: 8:30 – 9:30 a.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 and Course Learning Outcomes

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

Outcome	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 Text

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

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of 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 3-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 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Assessment and Grading

Your grade is based on the following areas of work:

Interview Podcast – 22.5%

Narrative Podcast – 22.5%

Chapter Reading Responses – 15%

Quizzes – 10%

Final Exam – 10%

Presentation – 10%

Podcast Episode Responses – 5%

Roundtable Podcast – 5%

Grades will be based on the following:

A	A-	B+	B	B	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	Less than 59

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 this course, 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 the area of Podcasting, 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.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will receive a **10% deduction for each calendar day late**, up to a **maximum penalty of 50%**. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

***Example:** An assignment submitted 1 day late will lose 10%, 3 days late 30%, and 5 or more days late will lose 50% (maximum).*

This means you can still receive credit for your work even if it's significantly late, but the highest deduction applied will not exceed 50% of the assignment grade, except for in an unusual circumstance.

Canvas may automatically mark the late assignment as zero. **Please do not be alarmed if this happens. I will go through each assignment later and change the grade to reflect the 50% maximum penalty.**

I understand that life happens, and unexpected situations may arise. Please communicate with me as early as possible if you anticipate not being able to turn in the assignment on time.

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.

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, Gemini Pro 1.5, Grammarly Go, 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 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 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.

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 other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

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

Assignments At-A-Glance

See Canvas for deadlines and assignment details.

Chapter Reading Responses (150 points): In this class, you'll read chapters from *NPR's Podcast Start Up Guide* and submit regular written responses to the assigned readings. These should demonstrate understanding of key concepts, critical thinking, and the ability to apply ideas to podcasting. The responses will be assessed for a total of 15% of the final grade.

Podcast Episode Responses (50 points): There will be a lot of podcast listening in this class! You'll be assigned podcast episodes to listen to and asked to write brief analytical responses to them. These responses should explore narrative structure, audio design, tone, and audience engagement strategies as well as your own impressions as a listener. I want you to think through and understand how certain podcasts can affect certain responses in their audience! The goal is to build your critical listening skills that you can then use to apply to your own podcast production work. The episode response will be assessed for a total of 5% of the final grade.

Podcast Episode 1 (Roundtable) (50 points): The first project will be a roundtable style podcast episode that you will be producing as a class. You'll work in small groups to plan and record a roundtable discussion on a topic of your choice. As this will be your first project, you won't have to worry about editing. You'll simply submit the raw file of your recording session. The goal is to help you understand how to produce, host, and work together with others in putting together a compelling podcast episode, drive testing the skills you will need for producing the other two podcasts. This first project will emphasize conversational pacing and collaborative planning and will be assessed for a total of 5% of your final grade.

Podcast Episode 2 (Interview) (225 points): For your second project, you will individually produce the pilot episode for an interview-based podcast. You will come up with the name, one-liner, and concept for the podcast and will select a guest. You'll prepare questions, conduct the interview, and edit the final product using Adobe Audition or an audio editing software of your choice. The episode should reflect strong storytelling, professional preparation, good hosting skills and clean editing. It will be assessed for a total of 22.5% of your final grade.

Podcast Episode 3 (Narrative) (225 points): Your third project will involve producing a pilot episode of a narrative style podcast. You will come up with the name, one-liner, and concept for the podcast and will pitch your idea for a story. The podcast will involve scripting, research, voiceover, and include some form of intentional sound design throughout either with music or natural sound. It will require multiple interviews and tell a compelling story using narration. The final product should demonstrate some aptitude in creating narrative structure through a sound medium. The third podcast episode will be assessed for a total of 22.5% of the final grade.

Quizzes (100 points): Quizzes will be administered throughout the semester to evaluate your understanding of podcast terminology, production techniques and key concepts from the readings. All quizzes will be open book and will be assessed for 10% of the final grade.

Final Exam (100 points): The final exam will test your overall understanding of material and include questions from the quizzes. It will not be open book. It will be assessed for a total of 10% of your final grade.

Presentation (100 points): For this assignment, you will choose an existing podcast to research and present to the class. The goal is to gain deeper insight into the podcasting industry by analyzing what makes a particular show successful. Presentations should explore elements such as target audience, format, storytelling techniques, tone, and production choices. Each presentation must include visual elements, a short audio excerpt from the podcast, and thoughtful analysis of how and why the podcast resonates with its audience. It will be assessed for a total of 10% of your final grade.

Lomabooks Instructions for Students:

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials. For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#).