



Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

School of Humanities, Arts, & Public Engagement

WRI 6001 Composition Pedagogy I

Fall 2025

3 Units

T/R 9:30 am - 10:45 am, Bond 105B

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Instructor	Rev. Dr. Holland Prior (she/her)
E-mail	hprior@pointloma.edu
Office Hours	Drop-in hours: • Tuesdays, 8:30 am - 9:30 am • Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm You can also visit my calendar to book an appointment with me. If none of the available time slots work for you, drop me an email to arrange another time. I'm here to help!
Office Location	Bond Academic Center (BAC 107)

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

From the [PLNU 2025-2026 Catalog](#):

An advanced course designed to educate students in the individualized instruction of composition. The course concentrates on writing theory and pedagogy and on ways to respond effectively to student writing in the classroom as well as in a writing center. Particular attention is given to the concrete application of writing theories to student work. For GTAs with a Pedagogy Concentration, WRI 6001 must be taken in semester 1 of MA program.

In this course, we will focus on developing skills and strategies for teaching writing in both individual tutoring and classroom settings. You will develop these skills through a series of writing and research assignments and activities that expose you to different aspects of teaching and working with student writers. By the time you complete WRI 6001 and WRI 6002, you should have a general familiarity with the discipline of composition and writing studies and the skills and knowledge necessary to teach undergraduate general education writing courses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete WRI 6001 will be able to:

1. learn foundational composition theory and pedagogical skills in the composition classroom (assessed by syllabi);
2. teach first-year writing students language skills in the context of their writing;
3. assess students' writing situations via an understanding of writing theory, and work with those students at their points of need;
4. improve their own writing and the writing of others through effective and appropriate analysis and application of the research writing process and format;
5. articulate a philosophy of teaching.

Required Texts and Materials

- Adler-Kassner, Linda and Elizabeth Wardle. *Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies*. Utah State UP, 2015.
- Ryan, Leigh and Lisa Zimmerelli. *The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors*. 6th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.
- Additional readings as 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 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

Major Assignments, Grade Distributions, & Due Dates

Assignment Category	Weight	Due Date
Reading Response Papers & Homework Assignments Over the course of the semester, you'll complete some smaller homework assignments and submit 10 reading responses (max. 2 pages each) that react to and reflect on the assigned reading.	30%	Most days
Threshold Concept Small Group Workshops Working in small groups, you'll tackle one of the meta-threshold concepts in <i>Naming What We Know</i> . Your group will be responsible for 1) mastering your designated meta-concept and 2) developing an interactive, discussion-based workshop to teach the rest of your colleagues about the concept.	10%	Presentation date
Field Observations You will conduct 2 tutoring observations in the Loma Writing Center this semester. The first will be an observation of another tutor (Peer Observation), and the second will be an observation of yourself (Tutoring "R&R"). You'll submit a written reflection following each observation, and further instructions are on Canvas. In your reflections, you'll focus on the larger theoretical questions that were raised in the session and relate them to your own tutoring theories and practices.	15%	Peer Observation: October 21 Tutoring R&R: November 18
Research Conversation Project This project contains multiple parts and is the most significant project you'll undertake in this course. First, you will reverse-engineer an annotated bibliography from a "central source" on your chosen research topic. Second, you'll create a lesson plan designed to teach our class community about your topic, including selecting any readings or designing a homework assignment for your peers to complete in preparation for the lesson. Finally, you'll facilitate that lesson on your scheduled Research Conversation date and submit a brief reflection about the experience.	40%	Teaching date + Reverse Annotated Bibliography due December 2
Final Portfolio & Performance Review At the end of the semester, you'll prepare a final portfolio of materials and complete a performance review with Holland. Your final portfolio will include a self-evaluation, philosophy of tutoring statement, and a revised lesson plan. Performance reviews will take place during the final exam period on December 16.	5%	December 16

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.

Preparation

Your preparation is vital to your success and overall learning in this course. I expect you to be on time for class each day and to arrive prepared to discuss all assigned readings, participate actively in class discussions and activities, and collaboratively engage our classroom community. You are also expected to check your PLNU email and Canvas regularly for updates to the schedule and assignments.

Revision

I allow revisions for all work except the final portfolio (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.)

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.

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 6001 is highly dependent upon interaction with your peers and the professor. That means arriving to class on time, having completed all assigned readings and homework, and participating actively and respectfully in all class activities.

If you are absent for more than 10% of class sessions, I will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If your absences exceed more than 20%, you may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop 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.

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 [Class 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.

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.

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.

Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions for or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with the [Graduate chaplain](#), you may email Dr. Sylvia Cortez Masyuk at scortezm@pointloma.edu or 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 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.

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 **not** allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., Gemini, Co-Pilot, ChatGPT, Claude, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity) to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course without explicit permission from the instructor. You **may**, however, use AI tools to generate ideas, brainstorm, proofread passages of your writing, and other uses as identified by the instructor. Any use of AI tools in any context must be properly cited. Use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

- [MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)
- [APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](#)
- [Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

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 6001, 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.

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.

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

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 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, writing with 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.

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

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.

Center for Enriching Relationships

PLNU graduate students are able to receive **free** face-to-face and telehealth counseling services through the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling program (MACC). This service is provided by supervised therapists-in-training at the Center for Enriching Relationships. To contact the Center for Enriching Relationships, please call 619-858-3105 or visit <https://www.enrichingrelationships.org/plnu-macc> to submit an online request. Your inquiry is confidential. Please note that once the form is submitted it may take up to two days to process and respond to your request.

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

Class Schedule (T/R)

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.

BG = The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors

NWWK = Naming What We Know

Week 1: Course Introduction

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 9/2	Welcome & Course Introduction		
R 9/4	Defining the Work	• "Understanding and Teaching Writing: Guiding Principles," NCTE Position Statement • Wardle, "You Can Learn to Write in General," <i>Bad Ideas About Writing</i> • Elbow, "Ranking, Evaluating, Liking: Sorting Out Three Forms of Judgment" (1994) • BG Intro, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2	Defining the Work prompt

Week 2: Working with Writers

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 9/9	Working with Writers	• BG Chapter 4 • Newkirk, "The First Five Minutes" (1989) • Mackiewicz & Thompson, "Motivational Scaffolding, Politeness, and Writing Center Tutoring" (2013)	Reading Response option
R 9/11	Research & Rhetorical Analysis	• BG Chapters 3, 5, 7, & 8 • <i>Rhetorical Choices</i> chapter 2	Reading Response option

Week 3: Big Deal Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 9/16	Generative AI & Writing	Dobrin, "Talking about Generative AI 2.0" (2025)	Reading Response option
R 9/18	Anti-Racist Writing Pedagogy	CCCC Statement, Students' Right to Their Own Language CCCC Statement, White Language Supremacy CCCC Statement, This Ain't Another Statement! This is a DEMAND for Black Linguistic Justice! - Royster, "When the First Voice You Hear Is Not Your Own" (1996)	Reading Response option

Week 4: Learning Design

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 9/23	Backward Design for Learning	Bowen, "Understanding by Design" (2017) Gonzalez, "Backward Design: The Basics" (2020)	Reading Response option
R 9/25	Lesson Planning	Milkova, "Strategies for Effective Lesson Planning" - Optional: Elly Setterfield, "Planning on a Daily Basis" - Optional: César de León and Eric McClure, "How to Build a Lesson Plan: Templates, Requirements, and More"	Central Source Annotation

Week 5: Threshold Concept Workshops 1 & 2

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 9/30	Concept 1: Writing is a Social and Rhetorical Activity	NWWK Concept 1 (1.0-1.9)	Reading Response option
R 10/2	Concept 2: Writing Speaks to Situations through Recognizable Forms	NWWK Concept 2 (2.0-2.6)	Reading Response option

Week 6: Threshold Concept Workshops 3 & 4

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 10/7	Concept 3: Writing Enacts and Creates Identities and Ideologies	• NWWK Concept 3 (3.0-3.5)	Reading Response option
R 10/9	Concept 4: All Writers Have More to Learn	• NWWK Concept 4 (4.0-4.6)	Reading Response option

Week 7: Threshold Concept Workshop 5 / Conferences

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 10/14	Concept 5: Writing is (Also Always) a Cognitive Activity	• NWWK Concept 5 (5.0-5.4)	Reading Response option
R 10/16	Conferences (no class meeting)		Preliminary Sources List

Week 8: Conferences, 10/15 - 10/22

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 10/21	In lieu of meeting as a class on 10/16 & 10/21, you will bring your preliminary list of sources for your reverse annotated bibliography to your scheduled conference with me.		Peer Observation
R 10/23	Fall Break - no class		

Week 9: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 10/28	Research Conversation #1	• TBD	Reading Response option
R 10/30	Research Conversation #2	• TBD	Reading Response option

Week 10: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 11/4	Research Conversation #3	• TBD	Reading Response option
R 11/6	Research Conversation #4	• TBD	Reading Response option

Week 11: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 11/11	Research Conversation #5	• TBD	Reading Response option
R 11/13	Research Conversations A, B, & C		

Week 12: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 11/18	Research Conversations X, Y, & Z		Tutoring R&R
R 11/20	Research Conversation #6	• TBD	Reading Response option

Week 13: Workshop

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 11/25	Reverse Annotated Bibliography Workshop		Draft of Reverse Annotated Bibliography
R 11/27	<i>Thanksgiving Recess - no class</i>		

Week 14: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 12/2	Research Conversation #7	• TBD	Reverse Annotated Bibliography Reading Response option
R 12/4	Research Conversation #8	• TBD	Reading Response option

Week 15: Research Conversations

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 12/9	Research Conversation #9	• TBD	Reading Response option
R 12/11	Research Conversation #10	• TBD	Reading Response option

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16, 10:30am - 1:00pm

Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignments Due
T 12/16	Performance Reviews	• BG Chapter 9	Final Portfolio