



PLNU Department of Communication

COM 2017 | Photography Workshop

1 Unit | In-Person Course

Spring 2026

Wednesday | 3:00-4:00 PM

Ryan Library 220 - Wasson Learning Lab

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 6th | 1:30-4:00 PM

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor name and title:	Arielle Pickerign <i>Department of Communication Adjunct Professor</i>
Phone:	(651) 233-0436
Email:	apickeri@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Scheduled by appointment

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

Students shoot events on campus through still photography and documentary video. May be repeated up to a total of three (3) units.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

Outcome	Assessment
Demonstrate proficiency in the use of cameras, lenses, and editing software to generate high-quality media.	Weekly Assignments (eg. Photo Submission Assignments, Discussion Boards), Midterm, Portfolio Presentation
Compose effective captions for newsworthy images.	Weekly Assignments (eg. Photo Submission Assignments)
Compare and select media which best communicates the intended message to its audience.	Weekly Assignments (eg. Photo Submission Assignments), Portfolio Presentation
Critique images in group settings with attention to imaging, techniques, cultural contexts, and professional conduct.	In-Class Discussion, Weekly Assignments (eg. Discussion Boards)
Apply appropriate ethical and legal standards while shooting, editing, and distributing media.	Weekly Assignments (eg. Photo Submission Assignments, Discussion Boards)

Required Texts

No Textbook Required.

NOTE: Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

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.

Required Course Materials

A working SD card with sufficient storage for a semester's worth of photos.

Recommended: Lexar - Professional 1667x 64GB SDXC UHS-II Memory Card
<https://www.bestbuy.com/product/lexar-professional-1667x-64gb-sdxc-uhs-ii-memory-card-lsd64gcbna1667/J36XPKZYY2>

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 1 unit course, students will spend an estimated 37.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. Based on a 15 week semester, students can anticipate to spend an estimated average of 2.5 hours on coursework per week.

Assessment and Grading

Refer to the Canvas grading rubrics for assignment specific grading policies.

Grades will be based on the following:

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 0-59%
A- 90-92%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	
	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

Incomplete and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted by the due date assigned in Canvas. Late assignments will only be accepted in extremely unusual circumstances. Assignments will be considered late if posted after the due date and time using Pacific Standard Time. Failure to complete assignments by the due date will result in an automatic **50% grade deduction** per late assignment. Assignments turned in after the assigned date and time can still receive up to 50% credit if submitted before the time of the final exam. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

Incomplete assignments will be graded based on the assignment rubric.

Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be pre-approved by the instructor and the program director.

PLNU Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate and Adult Undergraduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. We have onsite chaplains at our different campuses who may be available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with our chaplains, you can find them at the [Chaplain's Page](#) via myPLNU.

In addition, the Mission Valley and Balboa campuses have a prayer chapel for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

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.

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 [Adult Undergraduate Academic and General Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: "In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignments in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

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. The use of AI features embedded in Adobe's Lightroom editing software is permitted (e.g., the "Denoise" feature). If you have any doubts or questions 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 ensure 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 <http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX> or as shown in the PLNU Spiritual Care section of this syllabus.

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 Course Modality Definitions

**COM 2017 | Photography Workshop is instructed as an In-Person Course.*

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.
 - a. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - b. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
3. **In-Person Courses:** These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

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.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to [Academic Policies](#) for additional detail.

Use of Technology

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work. In addition, technology during class time is to be used only when and as instructed. Disruptive / distracted technology use can lead to a decrease in participation grade.

GPS Academic Resources

PLNU offers the following free academic resources virtually for Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) Students. Visit myPLNU through the links below for more information.

- **[The GPS Writing Center](#)** offers:
 - **Zoom Writers Workshops** offered each quad on a variety of helpful topics
 - **One-to-one appointments** with the Writing Coach
 - **Microlearning YouTube Video Library** for helpful tips anytime
 - **[Research Help Guide](#)** to help you start your research
 - The physical office is located on the third floor of the **[Mission Valley Regional Center](#)** off the student lounge
- **[Academic Writing Resources Course](#)**: Found on your Canvas Dashboard, this course is non-credit with 24/7 access, no time limits, and self-paced content. **[Watch a quick video run-through](#)** and take time now to explore!
- **[Grammarly](#)**: Students have unlimited FREE access to Grammarly for Education, a trusted tool designed to help enhance writing skills by providing real-time feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and providing suggestions. Grammarly's Generative AI is NOT available with our student accounts.
- **[Tutoring](#)**: Students have access to 24/7 live or scheduled subject tutoring through Tutor.com, including a Paper Drop-Off Service with feedback within 12 hours.

We are here to support you! Contact us anytime: GPSWritingCenter@pointloma.edu

Assignments At-A-Glance

*See Canvas for official deadlines and assignment details.

Week	Class Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates	Grade Value
Week 1	01/14/26	Course Introduction	Academic Honesty Quiz	01/14/26 11:59PM	0 pts
			Skill Assessment Quiz	01/14/26 11:59PM	10 pts
			Introduction Discussion Board	01/18/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	01/21/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 2	01/21/26	Key Elements & Principles of Art + Design	Key Principles Photo Submission	01/28/26 3:00PM	20 pts

			Key Principles Discussion Board	01/25/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	01/28/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 3	01/28/26	<i>Exposure Triangle:</i> Shutter Speed	Shutter Speed Photo Submission	02/04/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Shutter Speed Discussion Board	02/01/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	02/04/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 4	02/04/26	<i>Exposure Triangle:</i> Aperture / F-Stop	Aperture / F-Stop Photo Submission	02/11/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Aperture / F-Stop Discussion Board	02/08/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	02/11/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 5	02/11/26	<i>Exposure Triangle:</i> ISO + Lighting	ISO + Lighting Photo Submission	02/18/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			ISO + Lighting Discussion Board	02/15/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	02/18/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 6	02/18/26	Lens Types	Lens Types Photo Submission	02/25/26 3:00PM	20 pts

			Lens Types Discussion Board	02/22/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	02/25/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 7	02/25/26	Photography Ethics	Photos for Editing Submission	03/04/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Ethics Discussion Board	03/01/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	03/04/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 8	03/04/26	*MIDTERM*	*MIDTERM EXAM*	03/04/26 4:00PM	50 pts
			Course Assessment & Reflection Quiz	03/04/26 11:59PM	10 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
SPRING BREAK	*(NO CLASS)* 03/11/26				
Week 9	03/18/26	Editing (Lightroom)	Editing Photo Submission	03/25/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Photo Editing Discussion Board	03/22/25 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	03/25/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 10	03/25/26	Landscape / Architectural Photography	Landscape / Architecture Photo Submission	04/01/26 3:00PM	20 pts

			Landscape / Architectural Photography Discussion Board	03/29/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	04/01/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 11 (Easter Week)	04/01/26	Documentary Photography	Documentary Photo Discussion Board	04/05/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	04/08/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 12	04/08/26	Portrait / Self-Portrait Photography	Portrait / Self-Portrait Photo Submission	04/15/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Portrait / Self-Portrait Discussion Board	04/12/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	04/15/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 13	04/15/26	Street / Event Photography	Street / Event Photo Submission	04/22/26 3:00PM	20 pts
			Street / Event Photography Discussion Board	04/19/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	04/22/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 14	04/22/26	Sports Photography	Sports Photo Submission	04/29/26 3:00PM	20 pts

			Sports Photography Discussion Board	04/26/26 11:59PM	5 pts
			Discussion Board Replies	04/29/26 3:00PM	5 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
Week 15	04/29/26	Photography as a Foundation	Still Shot Video Submission	05/06/26 1:30PM	20 pts
			IDEA Evaluation Form	05/01/26 11:59PM	0 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
<u>*FINAL EXAM*</u>	05/06/26	<u>Portfolio Presentation</u>	<u>Portfolio Presentation Project</u>	05/06/26 1:30PM	100 pts
			Attendance / Participation		5 pts
			<u>*OPTIONAL*</u> <u>Extra Credit Assignment</u>	05/08/26 11:59PM	+10 pts
<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>					<u>620</u>