



Dept. of Communication Studies

COM 2043 Introduction to TV and Film Production

Spring 2026 //Section 1 & 2, TR 1:30pm - 2:45pm // Classroom: RLC 108

Final Exam: Tuesday May 5, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

<p>Professor Nathan Gibbs Professor of Media Production nathangibbs@pointloma.edu Extension: 2415 Office: Cabrillo 205 Office Hours: See Canvas and by Appointment</p>	<p>Dr. James Wicks Professor of Media & Film Studies jameswicks@pointloma.edu Extension: 2590 Office: Cabrillo 203 Office Hours: See Canvas and by Appointment</p>
---	---

Catalog Description

Fundamentals of studio and field TV and film production. This includes basic technical and creative aspects of camera, lighting, sound, graphics, producing, directing, and editing. Group projects are viewed and critiqued by peers and the instructor for consideration of being included on the Point TV YouTube channel.

Required Texts and Materials

Zettl, Herbert. 2014. *Television Production Handbook*. (Wadsworth-Cengage Learning)

Additional reading assignments TBD + Various handouts distributed by the professor

Required:

== Recording Cards: Each student needs to purchase their own SD card (min 32GB) and case/package for recording production competencies and their small-group project.

== Two pocket folder for 8x11.5-inch paper

Recommended/Required:

== 4-5 TB external hard drive (required for student projects throughout your PLNU career)

== Audio headset (you may use studio audio headsets but a purchasing your own is recommended)

Media Communication Program Learning Outcomes

1. Examine past and present media communication strategies across publishing modalities.
2. Demonstrate individual creativity in the process of designing, constructing, and producing media projects within a team dynamic.
3. Create film, media content, and multimedia projects according to industry-specific standards.
4. Apply critical thinking when interpreting and evaluating diverse media content.

Course Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to display knowledge and/or skill in the following areas:

1. Studio and field camera operation and audio production, video switching, graphics, teleprompter operation, lighting, make-up, basic engineering, camera and performer/actor staging, studio and field

directing, scriptwriting and script breakdowns, digital-non-linear editing (Adobe Premiere software), and the writer-producer and performer roles in television/film production;

2. Video and audio signal monitoring and processing;
3. Television production language and processes, and the unique demands and challenges of the production process.

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 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.

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.

Course Policies and Requirements

Scripts, Film, and TV Productions at PLNU: are required to be in accordance with the mission and values of the university.

Attendance: *Attendance is required. Missing class for other than medical emergencies or excused absences will affect your grade, as per the University Catalog.* **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 drop date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Class Preparation: All assignments must be completed prior to the assigned due date and time. Some assignments will be discussed in class while others will be completed individually but not discussed.

Class Participation: *Regular* contributions to class discussion are expected, including but not restricted to discussions of course texts, related experiential exercises, and open dialogue. I want everyone to feel compelled to share their thoughts on assigned readings. Enthusiastic and responsible participation in assigned group projects (in-class and outside of class) is expected of all.

E-Mail: Please use e-mail (not Canvas email) for simple, logistical questions or clarifications. Write: "COM 2043" in the subject line. Allow 24 hours/ 1 business day for a reply.

Canvas Messages: Please use Canvas messages associated with a specific assignment (not Canvas email) for all communications regarding assignments submitted to Canvas.

Smart phones, laptops, and computers: may be used during class for classroom-related activities only.

Public Discourse: Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and/projects; thus you should think of all your

writing, speaking, and media projects 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.

Inclusive Language: 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. These academic style guides provide background information and good examples of how to maintain non-sexist language use in your writing.

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. 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, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

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](#).

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy: PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request. PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes. Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging: Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the

power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

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

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination: In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

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

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.

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

Course Policies: Equipment and Facilities

Check-Out/Check-In Hours of Operation: Editing Bay and PLNU Studio equipment hours will be communicated early in the semester. These hours typically fit within the library hours with certain exceptions.

PLNU Studio: Camcorders, microphones, lighting kits, and other equipment are available for check-out at the PLNU studio. Unfortunately, we do not have enough equipment for everyone to use simultaneously so be sure to plan ahead. Eating and drinking is prohibited in the control room, edit bays, and on the studio floor. Students are required to clean-up, strike all equipment, and leave it on the studio floor for TAs to return to their proper places after labs and project sessions. The studio and edit bays need to be kept neat and clean.

Equipment Guidelines for Professional Projects: Students may not use equipment for professional production purposes without notifying the instructor. This includes getting paid by third parties for production services using university equipment or selling partial or completed projects to third parties. If a student desires to use university equipment for professional projects and wants to rent the equipment, they may do so by properly going through the request process with the instructor and studio media operations manager. Additionally, if a student takes on a professional project, and the project was referred to the student by university personnel or the instructor, then the project client must agree to a financial donation to the university above and beyond payment to the student. This amount must be negotiated by the client and the instructor.

Equipment Policy: Students who do not abide by equipment and facility policies will be penalized including a decrease in course participation grades, substantial late fee charges, and up to loss of equipment use privileges. The student who checks out equipment is responsible for the care of equipment. If equipment is lost or damaged, the student who checks out the equipment is responsible. See check out policy for further information.

Technical Assistants: You will be working with TA's (Technical Assistants) for your Point TV Production assignment. Additionally, you will be working with the Point TV management team and students in COM 4025: Advanced Television Production.

Course Policies: Recording Permission Process

Please note: if these policies are not followed students will incur loss of equipment privileges.

Shooting Indoors: If you wish to shoot inside a building, including dormitories, you must secure permission in advance, that is to say, before you are on your way to the shoot. Please contact the Department of Communication Studies Office Assistant to acquire the phone numbers of the various building managers on campus to get permission. Ideally, it is best to request permission a week or more in advance unless a breaking story requires immediacy and/or spontaneity.

Shooting Outdoors: PLNU Public Safety requires that PLNU students shooting outdoors on campus have both their student ID on hand and faculty/university authorization. For the latter, if you are shooting for this course please screenshot the first page of our COM 2043 syllabus on your phone so that you have both this course's information and your instructor's information available for Public Safety. Note: if you are filming in or around the Fermanian Business Center please call and get permission in advance.

Press Pass: By week five (5) of the semester the camera operator for class projects must wear a Dept. of Communication Studies "Press Pass" lanyard. Please go to the Dept. of Communication Studies office to acquire your "Press Pass" lanyard and personalize it as required.

Recording off Campus: Students are responsible for obtaining permission for all off-campus shoots. This means that if you are setting up a tripod and/or lighting and any extensive sound systems with crew and talent in public or private areas, you are responsible for getting permission to shoot--depending on which entity (the city, county, state, or federal government) "owns"/is responsible for that property. If you are shooting indoors on private property, you must get permission from the property owner. This can often require that you show that you have liability insurance which PLNU provides for student shoots. Be sure to contact the PLNU accounting office regarding insurance forms. Two helpful links are below:

San Diego city filming information:

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/filming_production_guide.pdf

Note: these San Diego city filming rules have been altered by the pandemic:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/specialevents-filming/filming>

Trademark Policy: If you shoot a video with a logo (i.e., a soft drink brand) prominently displayed in the picture and the logo/product is not being presented in a way intended by the manufacturer or it is shown in a negative light, the owner is more likely to take action against the filmmaker displaying it. In the case of PLNU specifically, students must get permission from the school to use their copyrighted identifiers.

Note:

- Buildings that can be seen from public areas can be filmed for any purpose.
- Public domain works (such as 19th century paintings or medieval manuscripts) are free for use.
- In answer to a common (but not intellectual property-related) question, documentarians don't need photo releases from individuals who are filmed in parks, streets or other public places where they have no expectation of privacy. If you single out an individual for special attention, you may need a release.
- Where a sound or image has been captured incidentally and without pre-arrangement, as part of an unstaged scene, it is permissible to use it, to a reasonable extent, as part of the final version of the video.
- A statement about the use of copyrighted music: there are plenty of free sites--or even better find a student to write something original that goes with the film (if so, they should write up an agreement in advance of the film's completion)—do note that film competitions will not accept films that violate copyright policy.

While fictional films differ in important ways from documentaries, please see and familiarize yourself with the Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use:

<https://cmsimpact.org/code/documentary-filmmakers-statement-of-best-practices-in-fair-use/>

Copyright Release: The PLNU Dept of Communication Studies owns the copyright to all student video and film projects created as individual or group projects. This includes projects created by the use of

student's personal equipment and/or the university's equipment in regular production courses and independent practicum course credit projects. The department has the right to make copies of student video and film projects in order to display them on the PLNU social media and faculty and/or student conferences and conventions for educational and program promotion purposes.

Posting Projects Online: Students may post their programs on the internet or distribute their programs. Please first notify Professor Wicks or Professor Gibbs and specify 1) what project is being distributed, 2) on which platform (e.g., YouTube, etc.), and 3) when their project will be posted.

Grading Scale

90-100	A	74-77	C
88-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-87	B	60-69	D
80-83	B-	0-59	F
78-79	C+		

Grading, Assignments, and Evaluation

- 10% Class participation: arrive to class on time; use smart phones and laptops for classroom use; work with peers in small groups; ask and respond to questions in class; pay attention to presentations, lectures, and films; take notes; attend the entire class; participate in peer reviews
- 15% Quizzes (announced and unannounced) and Notes – requires class attendance to receive a score
- 15% Production/Equipment Competencies (must be fully completed before handing them in)
Requirement: submit in a folder with both relevant handouts and competencies with signatures
- 10% Commercial Video Project
- 10% News Story Project
- 5% Final Group Project: First Cut
- 5% Final Group Project: Second Cut
- 10% Final Group Project: Final Cut
- 10% Final Exam
- 10% Studio 2043: Final TV Program

Production Competencies: see handouts. Some competencies will be started and completed in lab sessions, and others will require out of class individual work, group work, or work alongside a studio TA. All 13 assigned competencies are required in order to pass the course.

Late Assignment Policy: Be sure to hand in your assignment on time, or make a prior arrangement to submit the assignment before the assigned due date. Otherwise, a late submission will be penalized by one letter grade if handed in after the due date and time, and by an additional letter grade for each day late following the assignment due date. Unless pre-arranged, assignments more than a week late will not be graded.

Evaluation: You will be evaluated on quality of your performance/work dependent on your specific role in a given project (for example: camera, directing, editing, audio, etc.) and based on criteria outlined in course readings, texts used as reference standards, and competency requirements.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Note: Quiz and Notes assignments are due by 11:59pm on the Mondays and Wednesdays before class.

Module 1: Create a Commercial and Learn Basic Camera, Sound, and Editing Techniques

Week	Tuesday Location RLC 108	Thursday Location Studio
1	Introduction to the course; Commercial and News Story Project Introduction; Workshop X20s: white balance, exposure, focus	Quiz on “Process” reading: Chapters 1, 2; In-Class X20 Competency Assignment 1
2	Quiz on “Camera” reading: Chapter 5; Group Project: Final Project Pitch Proposal Handout; Lecture: Composition, Framing, Shot types Due: Competency Assignment 1	Quiz on “Lenses” reading: Chapters 6; In-Class X20 Competency Assignment 2
3	Quiz on “Camera” reading: Chapter 7; Lecture: X20s: Pan, Tilt, Zoom, Dolly, Truck, Pedestal Due: Commercial Assignment Proposal Due: Competency Assignment 2	Field day: Competency Assignment 3
4	Quiz on “Audio” reading: Ch.’s 8 & 9; Feedback: Commercial and News Story Projects Due: Competency Assignment 3 Lecture Field Sound: Lavalier, Hand Mic, Boom, Built-in	Field Day: Competency Assignment 4
5	Quiz on “Lighting” reading: Chapters 10 & 11; Due: Competency Assignment 4 Lecture: Lighting	Due: Bring Press Pass Field Day: Competency Assignment 5
6	Commercial: Pre-Production Due: Competency Assignment 5	Quiz on “Script, Directing” reading: Chapters 3, 4 Commercial: In-class Production Discuss: Pitch Proposals and Directing; Distribute Competency Assignment 5: Beat Sheets

Week	Tuesday Location: Wasson	Thursday Location RLC 108
7	Quiz on “Editing”: Chapter 18 & 19 Review Final Project Pitch Proposal Assignment + Q and A Commercial: In-class Post-Production and Editing Due by end of day: Commercial Project	Due: Final Project Pitch Proposal Due: Competency Assignment 6: Beat Sheets News Story: Pre-Production

Module 2: Create a News Story, Receive Pitch Proposal Feedback, and Learn Basic Studio Techniques

Week	Tuesday Location Studio	Thursday Location: Wasson
8	Quiz on “Video Recording” Chapter 12; News Story: In-class Production Due: Competency Assignment 7: Two-column Script	Quiz on “Director in Production” reading: Chapter 16 News Story: In-class Postproduction and Editing Assignment Reminder before next class: watch <i>Coda</i> (Heder, 2021) Due by end of day: News Story

Spring Break

Week	Tuesday Location RLC 108	Thursday Location RLC 108
9	Quiz on “Field Production and Big Remotes” reading: Chapter 17 Notes due on <i>Coda</i> (Heder, 2021); Lecture: Narrative	Quiz on “TV Talent” reading: Ch. 15 Pitches Returned and Projects Selected Discuss: Pitch Proposals and Directing; Preproduction Planning

Week	Tuesday Location Studio	Thursday
10	In-Class Studio begin Competency Assignment 8 Studio Rotation: Camera operator, Prompter Operator, Floor Manager, Audio Engineer, Graphics & Server Operator, Technical Director, Director, Engineer (shading), Talent Due: Final Project Beat Sheet	Workshop Day

Week	Tuesday Location Studio	Thursday
11	Quiz on “Switching” reading: Chapter 13 In-Class Studio work continued.	Competency Assignment 8 (submit before Easter Break)

Module 3: Submit First, 2nd, & Final Cut, take a Final Exam, and Produce a TV Show

Week 12	Tuesday Location RLC 108	Thursday: Work on Project
	Due before class: First Cut Screen First Cuts and Receive Feedback	Quiz on "Design" reading: Chapter 14 Workshop Day

Week 13	Tuesday Location Wasson	Thursday Location: Work on Project
	Demo day for Color Correction and Credits Lecture: Typography	Workshop Day Due by Friday 11:59pm Second Cut <i>with noticeable improvements</i>

Week 14	Tuesday: Work on Projects	Thursday Location RLC 108
	By Monday 11am: Receive Second Cut Feedback Work on Projects and Final Exam Prep Day	Due: Group Projects (Final Cut) Screen projects, Discuss & plan <i>Studio 2043</i> class project: process & timeline, leadership roles, & crew assignments

Week 15	Tuesday Location Classroom	Thursday Location Studio
	<i>Comprehensive Final Exam</i>	Rehearse Studio 2043

Final Exam: <i>Studio 2043</i> taping Finals Week
--