



Communication Studies Department

TRE1001-2 Introduction to Theatre

2 Units

FALL 2025

Thursdays, 1:30 PM – 3:20 PM

Salomon Theatre

Final Exam: Thursday, December 18, 2025

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Professor Melissa Baldwin
Phone:	619.942.0981
Email:	mbaldwin@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	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.

General Education Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices of the theatre arts, and an exploration of how theatre has powerfully impacted human societies from the beginning of recorded history. We will employ lectures, applied reading, discussion and participatory activities including group projects such as the “Immersion Project”. Required attendance of a live local theatrical performance is required to meet the goals of this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the role of theatre during major historical periods and social movements.
2. Analyze the work of the various practitioners who collaborate in the creation of theatre.
3. Articulate an informed opinion to thoughtfully and critically evaluate stage performances.
4. Connect with your local theatre community to engage in culturally enriching activities.
5. Plan and implement a creative project with others.

General Education Learning Outcomes

- GELO 1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.
- GELO 1b. Oral: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.
- GELO 1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.
- GELO 2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal well-being.
- GELO 2b. Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

Cohen, R., Sherman, D., and Liu Carriger, M (2023). [*Theatre Brief, 13e. McGraw-Hill.*](#)

Shakespeare, William. [*Twelfth Night*](#)

Haddon, Mark and Stephens, Simon. [*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*](#)

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.

Course Procedures and Requirements

Participation and Attendance is critical. Our class meets in person, once a week, for 2 hours. You are expected to be in class the entire time. Besides lecture, you will participate in groups and as a class to better understand the Elements of Theatre.

Rubrics are included with most Discussions, Assignments and Group Projects. For the best grade, you should meet the parameters of what is on Canvas as well as the highest level of the rubric.

Exams & Quizzes help you come prepared to class and to retain what is being read and studied.

- Quizzes help you keep up on the readings and to provide you with sample test questions. Quizzes are time-sensitive and given in class on Thursdays.
- Your final exam is taken from the quizzes. Questions are primarily multiple choice, several short-answer, and one short essay prompt. Staying up on your reading and reviewing the text will help prepare you for the Final.

Discussions offer opportunities to express your opinions and interact with others to hear what they think; some students consider this one of their favorite aspects of the course.

1. An initial post on your response to the prompt
2. Two responses to fellow students (unless directed otherwise)
3. AND a follow-up to someone else's response to you (unless directed otherwise)

Assignments will support your learning various integral elements of Theatre.

- **Critiques:** Each student will analyze *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon and Simon Stephens in a written historical/critical or rhetorical essay. Prompts will be posted on Canvas where you will write your responses.
- **Playwriting:** Each student will learn about how to tell a story through a script format
- **Critical Stage Review:** You will be responsible for one written review of a live theatre production. You will need approval from your professor for the production you choose to attend. Your choice must be submitted in a timely manner, per Canvas calendar. **Lack of a Critical Stage Review will result in failure of the course.**

Group Projects are a major part of this course. You will work together, both in class and outside of class, to put into practice the theatre crafts such as directors, designers, playwrights, and actors. The culmination of the group projects is Immersion.

Immersion Project: Each student will participate in the staging and presentation of an original playlet. This will be based on a well-known tale, given a twist, and include elements of tragedy and farce

as studied in our course. Given the obvious restraints of this being greatly imaginative, you will incorporate all the components of the process as creatively as you can as a group; this will require some time commitment outside of class. Therefore, cooperation with the ensemble will be considered in grading. Lack of participation in Immersion will result in failure of the course.

Surveys are opportunities for students to give their input to the course, add to their accumulation of points, assess their comprehension of course objectives, and broaden their methods of learning.

Collaboration is important; be timely and come to class with anticipation!

- Your class time is spent in lectures, group discussion and active workshops.
 - Though the class structure is primarily oriented toward lectures, I strongly encourage questions, ideas, and discussions.
 - Take an **active** role in the process and you will get far more from the experience.
 - If you are not adept at note-taking, I have no problem with small recording devices.
 - Power Points are included each week, but I do not post the lectures online, nor make them available anywhere outside class. You are expected to take notes.

NOTE: All assignments, reading, discussions, activities and attendance in this course lead up to success in the Immersion Project and the Final Exam.

Policies:

- **Incomplete or Late Assignments:**
 - All assignments are to be submitted/turned in when they are due. You must contact your professor if an extension is requested. Assignments turned in late will receive a 10% penalty per day.
 - Reading response assignments, such as discussions on canvas or quizzes on the readings, will be graded based on reasonable effort, and will not be accepted for credit if submitted late. Make-up quizzes will only be given for excused absences.
- **Extra Credit or "Curves":** There is NO extra credit in this course, nor any additional work that can augment your grade. My policy on final grade rounding is: if you are within 0.5% of the next grade, I round up. Therefore, 89.55 becomes an A-; 89.48 remains a B+. Please refer to this BEFORE you email me at the end of the semester.
- **Exceptions: an email from the Provost's office is required for exceptions to any of the following policies as stated in this course:**

- Quizzes
- Discussions
- Critical Stage Review
- Immersion Project

Assessment and Grading

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing the number of points you earn by the total number of points at the end of the semester. Assignments and points may be changed at the discretion of the Professor.

Here are the categories of assessment (see Canvas for the points possible):

Assessment/Grading Parameters	
Category	Description and Points Available
Attendance and Participation	Up to 10 points per day are available for physically arriving in a timely manner and fully participating in class lectures, discussions and activities.
Discussions	You will participate in discussion boards with your classmates in which you share, respond to and develop your ideas and understanding of key theatre topics. Each is worth 20 points if all requirements are met. The requirements are as follows (unless otherwise specified): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One initial post (short paragraph of at least four sentences in response to prompt), 2. Two responses to other’s posts (at least three complete sentences long directly related to subject and discussion), and 3. A response to your original post (at least two complete sentences directly related to subject and discussion)
Assignments	You will complete various assignments in this course in addition to a major group project. The various assignments will include, but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook assigned reading – this will be assessed with in class quizzes 2. Reading Shakespeare’s <i>Twelfth Night</i> 3. Reading Haddon’s <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> 4. Writing reflection essays on each play and their themes and use of dramatic elements

Group Project	You will work together with others to plan, write and ultimately present a one-act play integrating the crafts of theatre artists such as directors, designers, playwrights and actors. This project preparation is worth 150 points.
Group Project Presentation	You will present your group project for the class as well as submit your script for grading. Performance must be under 15 minutes. This presentation is worth 350 points.
Live Theatre Review	You are required to attend one live theatre performance and write a critical review. The review must be two pages, MLA format. This review is worth 100 points.
Reflection Paper	You will turn in an essay on the last class before the final on how this class has influenced your outlook on theatre and how it has contributed to your personal growth. This essay must be two pages, MLA format. This reflection essay is worth 100 points.
Quizzes	Most weeks you will complete a brief quiz based on your textbook reading assignment or lecture material. These quizzes are worth 10 points each per chapter.
Final Exam	At the end of the semester there is a Final Exam worth 100 points.
Surveys	You will complete several required check-ins leading up to your live theatre attendance as well as several PLNU surveys.

Grades will be based on the following:

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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

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 TRE1001 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. These topics include domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse and more. 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 theatre and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

In TRE1001, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse and more. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of theatre, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

- All assignments are to be submitted/turned in when they are due. You must contact your professor if an extension is requested. **Assignments turned in late will receive a 10% penalty per day.**
- Reading response assignments, such as discussions on canvas or quizzes on the readings, will be graded based on reasonable effort, and will not be accepted for credit if submitted late. Make-up quizzes will only be given for excused absences.

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 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, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to **generate ideas**, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text,

video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any 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

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](#)

Assignments At-A-Glance – See Modules for Expanded Plan and Prep

Week #	Class Plan	Pre-Class Prep
Week 1 – September 3-5	Introductions Theme: What is theatre?	Discussion: Introductions <i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 1: What Is Theatre?
Week 2 – September 8-12	Theme: What is a play? Quiz Chapter 1	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 2: What Is a Play? Shakespeare’s Language- Idioms, Expressions & Phrases DUE
Week 3 – September 15-19	Theme: History Quiz Chapter 2	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapters 11 & 12: The Ancients & The Middle Ages Live Theatre Approval DUE
Week 4 – September 22-26	Theme: Acting Quiz Chapters 11 & 12	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 3: Acting
Week 5 – September 29-October 3	Theme: Playwriting Quiz Chapter 3	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 4: Playwriting Reflection Paper on “ <i>Twelfth Night</i> as Theatre” DUE
Week 6 – October 6-10	Theme: Design and Technology Part One Quiz Chapter 4	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 5: Design and Technology
Week 7 – October 13-17	Theme: Design and Technology Part Two Quiz Stage Directions	Playwrighting Assignment DUE
Week 8 - Fall Break: October 23-24	Fall Break	
Week 9 – October 27-31	Theme: Directing Quiz Chapter 5	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 6: Directing

Week 10 – November 3-7	Theme: Musical Theatre Quiz Chapter 6	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 9: Musical Theatre Reflection Paper on “ <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> ” DUE
Week 11 – November 10-14	Theme: Theatre Today Quiz Chapter 9	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 8: The Modern Theatre Draft of Immersion Script DUE
Week 12 – November 17-21	Theme: Theatre Outside the Box Quiz Chapter 8	<i>Theatre Brief:</i> Read Chapter 10: Theatre Today
Week 13 – Thanksgiving Break: November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break	Live Theatre Review DUE
Week 14 – December 1-5	Theme: Implementing Storytelling, Directing and Acting Quiz Chapter 10	Immersion Script with Design Elements DUE
Week 15– December 8-12	Theme: Immersion Presentations Quiz Chapter 10	Final Immersion Script DUE Final Reflection Paper DUE
Week 16 – Final – December 15-19	Final Exam	Final Exam will be cumulative and be held Tuesday , December 16, 2025 at 1:30 pm.