

Course Syllabus

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Adult Degree Completion | BA in Child Development

WRT3001 Writing for the Child Development Professional

1 Unit

Spring 2026 Quad 1

January 12 - March 8

Online

Meeting Location: Online

Email: bhenzel@pointloma.edu

Instructor: Becky Henzel

Office Location and Hours: Tuesdays 8:00 - 9:00pm via Zoom

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



Experience in reading, writing, and critical thinking centered on essay and research writing for Child Development. Students will design a research project that identifies a problem or dilemma within the child development field and provides research-based outcomes or solutions to the problem. Library research and writing the source-based essay are major components of the course. This course needs to be passed with a C or better before proceeding with any other course in the program.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following student learning outcomes will be achieved by this course:

1. Apply awareness of current research as it impacts the growth and development of children (PLO-3).
 2. Apply English language conventions in various types of academic and professional writing (PLO-3).
 3. Apply proper APA documentation format for in-text citations and references (PLO-3).
 4. Evaluate sources of information for authority and relevance (PLO-4).
 5. Synthesize information from a variety of sources to articulate and support a claim (PLO-3, PLO-4).
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Program Learning Outcomes

The Point Loma Nazarene University BA-CDV graduate is prepared for expanded roles within his or her organization through enhanced abilities to:

1. Identify and describe normative similarities and differences of intellectual, emotional, social and physical theories at each developmental stage from prenatal through adolescence. (ILO-1)
 2. Evaluate the effects of family systems on the development of children and adolescents. (ILO-2)
 3. Identify and discuss scientific research in understanding different philosophical views of growth and development both historic and current. (ILO-1)
 4. Assess research of theoretical and appropriate practical elements of parenting to facilitate discussions for a healthy environment for children and adolescents. (ILO-2)
 5. Evaluate the effects of society and culture upon the family microsystems, family types and the subsequent macrosystems with which they co-exist. (ILO 2)
 6. Identify career paths and professional areas of service within the child and adolescent profession. (ILO 3)
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Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ

Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.



2. Growing, in a Christ-centered Faith Community

Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental, and social contexts.

3. Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith

Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

While there is no specific textbook for this course, both the [Purdue OWL](https://owl.purdue.edu/) and [APA Guidelines](https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines) will be referenced throughout the course as a resource for APA.

The following textbook from CDV3023 will also be used to support your research project in this course:

Paris, J., Ricardo, A. & Rymond, D. (2019). [Understanding the Whole Child: Prenatal Development through Adolescence](https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/files/9205584?wrap=1), (Version 1.2 Derivative). College of the Canyons.

Note: Students are responsible for having the required 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.

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. 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 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 8 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 37.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided below and in the Canvas modules.

Estimated Time to Complete Course

<i>Activity Category</i>	<i>Time-to-Complete (Hours)</i>
Discussions	9
Writing Assignments	30



Surveys	0.5
Total:	39.5

Assessment and Grading

It is important to read the comments posted in the Grades area as these comments are intended to help the student improve their work. Grades will be based on the following guidelines:

Graded Course Components

Discussions: Discussion boards provide an opportunity for students to reflect on various topics throughout the course and engage with their peers in a meaningful way.

Assignments: Assignments are created in the course and are used to measure understanding and to provide students with the opportunity to apply writing skills and resources aligned to the final research project and improving their writing skills. They include reflections, essay, rough drafts and parts of the final paper.

Research Articles: Throughout the course, students will be gathering scholarly, peer-reviewed articles to help them craft their Final Research Paper.

Problem and Solution Essay: The final project for this course is a research paper encapsulating the student's work throughout the course. It combines the research articles into a cohesive essay that illuminates a need in the field. Prior to the final draft of this research paper, students will complete a literature review and rough draft to ensure all of the components of a quality research paper are present.

Course Surveys: Students will provide feedback on the course through the mid-course and end-of-course surveys. These surveys are voluntary but are crucial to our continual improvement processes at PLNU. **The Course Surveys represent 0% of the overall course grade.**

Point Distribution Table

Discussions	45 pts.
Article Summaries	100 pts.
Literature Review	100 pts.
Research Argument Rough Draft	50 pts.
Research Argument Final Draft	250 pts.
Other Assignments	325 pts.



Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for all exams and final course grades:

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

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for **each day** an assignment is late, and assignments will **not be** accepted for credit four days after the due date. If missing assignments result in the failure to meet learning outcomes, you may receive a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. Assignments will be considered late if posted after the due date and time using Pacific Standard Time. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

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 \(https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/chaplains\)](https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/chaplains) via myPLNU.

In addition, on the MV campus, there is a prayer chapel on the third floor, which is open 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](#) (<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>) to view which states allow 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 [Adult Undergraduate Academic and General Policies](#)  (<https://pointloma->



public.courseleaf.com/aug-catalog/academic-general-policies/#text 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. 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 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 [PLNU's Nondiscrimination webpage \(http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination\)](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.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 via our [Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy. \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.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 via our [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy \(https://www.pointloma.edu/bias\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/bias).

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](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/aug-catalog/academic-general-policies/)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/aug-catalog/academic-general-policies/>) for additional details.

Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
 1. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 2. 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).



Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements \(https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349\)](https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

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 \(https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/writing-center-gps\)](https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/writing-center-gps) 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 \(https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/research-help\)](https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/research-help) to help you start your research
 - The physical office is located on the third floor of the [Mission Valley Regional Center \(https://maps.app.goo.gl/CRXui8PJUnSkvokC9\)](https://maps.app.goo.gl/CRXui8PJUnSkvokC9) off the student lounge
 - [Academic Writing Resources Course \(https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/64301\)](https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/64301): 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 \(https://youtu.be/4H8KTZ4BOaY\)](https://youtu.be/4H8KTZ4BOaY) and take time now to explore!
 - [Grammarly \(https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/writing-center-gps\)](https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/writing-center-gps): 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 \(https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/tutoring-gps\)](https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/tutoring-gps): 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.
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Assignments-at-a-Glance



The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 12, 2026	 Course Introduction	to do: 8am
	 WK1 Overview	to do: 8am
	 Academic Honesty Verification Statement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252284)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 13, 2026	 WK1 Review of Research Argument (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252289)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK1 Introduce Yourself (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252287)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 17, 2026	 WK1 Brainstorming Activity (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252290)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK1 Select A Topic (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252291)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 20, 2026	 WK2 Overview	to do: 8am
	 WK2 Meet with Professor (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252293)	due by 5pm
Sat Jan 24, 2026	 WK2 APA Citation Activity (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252283)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK2 APA Style and Structure (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252292)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 26, 2026	 WK3 Overview	to do: 8am
Wed Jan 28, 2026	 WK3 Critical Thinking Discussion	due by 

Date	Details	Due
	(https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252285)	
Sat Jan 31, 2026	 WK3 Problem Statement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252294)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 2, 2026	 WK4 Overview	to do: 8am
	 WK8 Overview	to do: 8am
Thu Feb 5, 2026	 WK4 Summary, Analysis, and Evaluation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252296)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 7, 2026	 WK4 Synthesis (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252297)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 9, 2026	 WK5 Overview	to do: 8am
Thu Feb 12, 2026	 WK5 Incorporate Feedback (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252298)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 15, 2026	 WK5 Literature Review (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252299)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 16, 2026	 WK6 Overview	to do: 8am
Tue Feb 17, 2026	 WK6 Discussion: Writing Process Reflection (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252286)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 21, 2026	 WK6 Conclusion (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252300)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 23, 2026	 WK7 Overview	to do: 8am
Thu Feb 26, 2026	 WK7 Incorporate Feedback (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252301)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 27, 2026	 WK7 Rough Draft (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252302)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Sun Mar 1, 2026	 WK8 End-of-Course Evaluation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252305)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 3, 2026	 WK8 Course Reflection Journal (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252304)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 6, 2026	 EXTRA CREDIT: Attend a Writers Workshop (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252288)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK8 Research Argument (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/85534/assignments/1252303)	due by 11:59pm

