

Spring 2026	
<b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesdays & Thursdays	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Nathan Gibbs Professor of Media Communication
<b>Meeting times:</b> 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Office Phone:</b> (619) 849-2415
<b>Meeting location:</b> Ryan Library 202	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nathangibbs@pointloma.edu">nathangibbs@pointloma.edu</a>
<b>Final Exam:</b> May 5, 10:30 - 1 p.m.	<b>Office location and hours:</b> Mon, Wed 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Cabrillo 205) Tue, Thurs 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Ryan Library 203)

## 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

The exploration and production of audiovisual aesthetics, theories, and technologies in film and media.

## PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is required for students enrolled in the B.A. Media Communication program, is a menu option for students enrolled in the Media Communication Minor, and is required for students enrolled in the Visual Storytelling concentration of the B.A. Multimedia Journalism program.

B.A. Media Communication Program Learning Outcomes:

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

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Outcome	Assessment
Define media aesthetic theories and identify examples in popular culture. (PLO 1)	Chapter Notes

Demonstrate proficiency in single-camera film production teams. (PLO 2)	Competencies
Create film scenes using production techniques that further specific narrative goals. (PLO 3)	Film Scenes Public Service Announcement
Evaluate the effectiveness of visual storytelling techniques in conveying the intended message. (PLO 4)	Quizzes Final Exam

## REQUIRED TEXT

*Sight, Sound, Motion: Applied Media Aesthetics*, 8th ed., 2017. Zettl.

## COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. 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 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

The following grading scale represents the minimum total percentage required to receive a given final grade:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

## 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 this course, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of Media Communication, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

## **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the deadline associated with each assignment in Canvas. Some assignments may be completed late for reduced credit. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

## **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 students 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](#).

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://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](http://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.

## **PLNU COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS**

- 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).

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered asynchronously and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

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

## 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](mailto: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.

Read more about LomaBooks: <https://www.pointloma.edu/lomabooks>

## ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

See Canvas for deadlines and assignment details.

*Film Scenes (200 points):* Produce four film scenes during the semester to demonstrate how aesthetic techniques impact the effectiveness of the overall scene. Submissions will be assessed for a combined total of 20% of the final grade.

*Competencies (100 points):* Complete 10 skills-based assignments to show proficiency in aspects of cinema camera operation, lighting, color correction, green screen compositing, composition, movement, animation, motion tracking, continuity editing, and montage. Submissions will be assessed for a combined total of 10% of the final grade.

*Public Service Announcement (200 points):* Apply media aesthetic techniques to produce a 30-second PSA. Submissions will be assessed for a combined total of 20% of the final grade.

*Chapter Notes (180 points):* Submit notes from the assigned readings using the template provided in Canvas. Your chapter notes will be available as a resource during quizzes. Submissions will be assessed as complete or incomplete for a combined total of 18% of the final grade.

*Quizzes (120 points):* Complete three open-note quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will be assessed for a combined total of 12% of the final grade.

*Final Exam (100 points):* The final exam will be assessed for a total of 10% of the final grade.

*Attendance (100 points):* Attendance and tardiness will be marked at the start of each class session. The total value of full attendance is 10% of the final grade.