

Course Syllabus

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Department of Communication and Theatre

TRE1001 Introduction to Theater

2 Units

Fall 2023

Aug 08 - October 16

Fully Online

Meeting Days: Asynchronous Online

Meeting Times: Asynchronous Online

Meeting Location: Online

Final Exam: (Day/Time): N/A

Instructor: Professor Megan DeBoard

Email: mdeboard@pointloma.edu

Phone: Zoom, by appointment

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.

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS 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 the 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 and required the attendance of local theatrical performances to this end.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

[Cohen, R., Sherman, D., and Liu Carriger, M \(2023\). Theatre Brief, 13e. McGraw-Hill.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

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 2-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 75 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Time Estimates

Assignment Type	Total Time to Complete (HOURS)
Required Readings	23
Quizzes	4
Discussions	16
Assignments	18
Projects	15
TOTAL	76

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

There are 1,000 total points available in the course. Points are distributed as follows:

Point Distribution

Assignment Type	Description
Quizzes	Each week you will complete a brief quiz based on your textbook readings.

Discussions	You will participate in discussion boards with your group in which you share and develop your ideas and understanding about key topics on Theatre.
Assignments	You will complete both individual and group assignments throughout the semester. The group assignments will focus on development of a script and recorded performance of a playlet.
Projects	You will complete three "projects" or major assignments in the course: a live theatre review paper, your group playlet performance, and a paper discussing your takeaways from the course.
Surveys	You will complete several required PLNU surveys as well as check-ins leading up to your live theatre attendance.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

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	

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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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 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.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. 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 issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

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 and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

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.

ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS ATTENDANCE POLICY

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.

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.

Students may be warned if they demonstrate a lack of academic activity. After a warning, students who miss more than one week of academic activity without prior approval and arrangements with the instructor may be de-enrolled or withdrawn from a course. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a course, the student will be assigned a letter grade of “F” or “NC.” There are no refunds for courses where a de-enrollment was processed after the last date to withdraw from a course.

COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS

1. **In-Person:** Course meetings are face-to-face with no more than 25% online delivery.
2. **Online:** Coursework is completed 100% online and asynchronously.
3. **Online Synchronous:** Coursework is completed 100% online with required weekly online class meetings.
4. **Hybrid:** Courses that meet face-to-face with required online components.

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

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 the **Office of Spiritual Development**.

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](#). 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 at the [Title IX Office | Get Help Now](#)

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](#) 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 require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) 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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SYLLABUS POLICY

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

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.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Course Summary:

Course Summary

Date	Details	D
Mon Aug 28, 2023	Quiz Academic Honesty Verification Statement	d
	Page Week 1 Overview	to
Tue Aug 29, 2023	Quiz Wk 1 Quiz: Ch. 1 & 2	d
	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Group Intro Discussion	d

Course Summary

Date	Details	D
Wed Aug 30, 2023	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Group Discussion: Storytelling and Role Playing in Education	d
Fri Sep 1, 2023	Assignment Wk 1 Check-In: Live Theatre Approval	d
Mon Sep 4, 2023	Page Week 2 Overview	to
Tue Sep 5, 2023	Quiz Wk 2 Quiz: Ch. 10 & 11	d
Wed Sep 6, 2023	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Group Discussion: Greek vs. Roman Theatre	d
Sat Sep 9, 2023	Assignment Wk 2 Assignment: Playwriting	d
Mon Sep 11, 2023	Page Week 3 Overview	to
Tue Sep 12, 2023	Quiz Wk 3 Quiz: Ch. 3, 6, & 12	d

Course Summary

Date	Details	D
Wed Sep 13, 2023	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Group Discussion: The Church and Theatre	d
Fri Sep 15, 2023	Assignment Wk 3 Check-In: Live Theatre Plan	d
Sat Sep 16, 2023	Assignment Wk 3 Group Assignment: Script in Proper Playwright Format	d
Mon Sep 18, 2023	Page Week 4 Overview	to
Tue Sep 19, 2023	Quiz Wk 4 Quiz: Ch. 4 & 13	d
Wed Sep 20, 2023	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Group Discussion: Genres	d
Fri Sep 22, 2023	Assignment Wk 4 Group Assignment: Draft of Script & Peer Review	d
Sun Sep 24, 2023	Quiz Mid-Course Survey	d

Course Summary

Date

Details

Mon Sep 25, 2023

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Tue Sep 26, 2023

Quiz [Wk 5 | Quiz: Ch. 7](#)

Wed Sep 27, 2023

Discussion Topic [Wk 5 | Group Discussion: Shakespeare or Commedia dell'Arte](#)

Thu Sep 28, 2023

Assignment [Wk 5: Group Participation Feedback](#)

Sat Sep 30, 2023

Assignment [Wk 5 | Group Assignment: Add Design Elements to Your Playlet](#)

Mon Oct 2, 2023

Page [Week 6 Overview](#)

Tue Oct 3, 2023

Quiz [Wk 6 | Quiz: Ch 8](#)

Wed Oct 4, 2023

Discussion Topic [Wk 6 | Group Discussion: Theatre in the 19th & 20th Century](#)

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Date

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Sat Oct 7, 2023

Assignment [Wk 6 | Group Assignment: Script with Revisions](#)

Page [Wk 6 | Plan and Prepare](#)

Sun Oct 8, 2023

Assignment [Wk 6 | Live Theatre Review](#)

Mon Oct 9, 2023

Page [Week 7 Overview](#)

Tue Oct 10, 2023

Quiz [Wk 7 | Quiz: Ch. 9](#)

Wed Oct 11, 2023

Discussion Topic [Wk 7 | Group Discussion: Musical Theatre and Culture](#)

Sat Oct 14, 2023

Assignment [Wk 7 | Group Playlet Project](#)

Mon Oct 16, 2023

Discussion Topic [Wk 8 | Group Discussion: Course Takeaways](#)

Course Summary

Date

Details

	Assignment End-of-Course Evaluation	d
	Assignment Wk 8 Final Paper	d
	Page Week 8 Overview	to