



COM 1000-11 Principles of Human Communication

3 units

Fall 2026

Meeting days/times: Tuesdays 3:00 pm- 5:45 pm

Meeting location: Liberty Station 205A

Final Exam: Dec. 15, 2026

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Adjunct Professor, Susana Franco
Phone:	(951) 500-9516
Email:	sfranco@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	By Appointment - 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.

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:

A survey of the human communication process. Emphasis is placed on intrapersonal, interpersonal, and public communication. Particular attention is paid to the preparation and presentation of speeches.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Be able to describe and discuss the process of human communication.
2. Be able to identify and explain the basic components of an effective speech.
3. Be challenged to interact competently in dy-adic (two people), and small group experiences.
4. Be able to construct and deliver informative and persuasive speeches.
5. Develop the theoretical, practical, and spiritual foundations for effective communication.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

Here is the link to GE course learning outcomes and corresponding GELO's:

<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/general-education/>

GELO 1b. Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.

Assessment: Informative & Persuasive Speeches

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources:

Autumn Edwards, et al. *The Communication Age Connecting and Engaging*. 4th ed., SAGE Publications 2024

You will need your access right away, before the end of the first week of class, in order to complete the required readings and assignments.

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
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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.

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.

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](#).

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 distance education outside 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. You will need to cite your sources, see the required formats below:

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](#)

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

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.

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 Principles of Human Communication, 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 Communications, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning:

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Principles of Human Communication, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. 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 Communications, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR:

Date	Discussion/ Activity/Reading	Due	Assigned
Week #1 - 9/1/26	• Introduction to Class/Meet Professor • Go Over Sage Vantage • Go Over Syllabus • Intro Worksheet • In-Class Presentations (10 pts)	In-Class Presentation	Ch. 1 Prepare for Quiz #1
Week #2 - 9/8/26	• Review Chapter 1: Communication in the 21st Century • In-Class Activity (Sage Vantage)	Quiz #1 on Ch. 1	Ch. 6 Prepare for Quiz #2

	• In-Class Writing Assignment/Activity (10 pts)		
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Week #3 - 9/15/26	• Review Chapter 6: Communication, Culture & Diversity • Assigned Chapter 3 Verbal & Nonverbal Communication • In-Class Activity (Sage Vantage) • In-Class Writing Assignment/Writing Prompt (10 pts)	Quiz #2 on Ch.6	Ch. 2 & 3 Prepare for Quiz #3
Week #4 - 9/22/26	• Review Chapter 2: Perception, Self & Communication • Review Chapter 3: Verbal Communication • Assigned Chapter 4 • In-Class Assignment • In-Class Writing Prompt (10 pts)	Quiz #3 on Ch. 3	Ch. 4 Prepare for Quiz #4
Week #5 - 9/29/26	• Review Chapter 4: Nonverbal Communication • Assigned Chapter 11: Selecting & Researching Your Topic... • In-Class Assignment (10 pts)	Quiz #4 on Ch. 4	Ch. 11 Prepare for Quiz #5

Week #6 - 10/6/26	• Review Chapter 11: Selecting & Researching Your Topic... • Read Chapter 12: Organizing Your Speech & Informative... • In-class assignment (10 pts)	Quiz #5 on Chapters 11	Chapter 12 Prepare for Quiz # 6
Week #7 - 10/13/26	• Review Chapter 12: Delivering Your Presentation • Read Chapter 13 • In-Class Assignment • Case Study/Writing Prompt (10 pts)	Quiz #7 on Chapter 12	Chapter 13 & 14 Prepare for Quiz #8
Week #8 - 10/20/26	• Review Chapter 13: Delivering Your Presentations • Review Chapter 14: Informative Presentations • Informative Topics Due/Informative Workshop	Informative Topic & Outline Due	

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Week #9 - 10/27/26	• Informative Speech Presentations	Informative Speech Formal Outline	Chapter 10 & Appendix Quiz #9
Week #10 - 11/3/26	• Informative Speech Presentations Con't • Review Chapter 10 & Appendix: Communication & New Media + Interviewing • In-Class Activity - Mock Interviews (10 pts)	Quiz #9 on Chapter 10 & Appendix	Chapters 5/15 Prep for quiz #10

Week #11 - 11/10/26	• Review Chapter 5 & 15: Listening & Persuasive Presentations • In-Class Assignment (10 pts) • In-Class Writing Prompt (10 pts)	Quiz #10 on Chapters 5/15	
Week #12 - 11/17/26	Persuasive Speech Topic/Workshop Quiz Chapters 5 & 15	Persuasive Topic & Outline Due	
Week #13 - 11/24/26	THANKSGIVING WEEK		
Week #14 - 12/1/26	Persuasive Speech Presentations	Persuasive Speech Formal Outline	
Week #15 - 12/8/26	Persuasive Speech Presentations & Final Exam Review LAST WEEK OF CLASSES	Persuasive Speech Formal Outline	
Week #16 - 12/15/26	FINAL EXAMS		
Notes:			

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](#)*