

**COM275  
Audio Production  
Spring 2016**

T 3-4:50 p.m. – RLC 220 (Bresee Computer Lab)  
(Version as of 1/13/16 2:00 pm)

Note: this syllabus is subject to change. Be sure to check the latest online version for the most up to date information.

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**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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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Undergraduate 2014-2015 Catalog Course Description:

*A basic course that provides students with skills in writing and production of audio content for radio (e.g., commercials, promotional announcements, PSAs), and TV and Film (multi-track recording, mixing and sound effects). Course deals with announcing, acoustics, and microphones. Required for broadcast journalism majors and other students desiring to work at Point Radio.*

This course will be taught with an eye (or ear) to understand the effects sound has on our experience of media (and life). And, conversely, how sound can be used to create/suggest effects within individuals encountering the media programming students will create. An emphasis on an understanding of the pre-cognitive/non-rational nature of sound will be a frequent topic of discussion. The course content should be useable by all students in relation to media consumption and construction, even if a career in this field is not contemplated.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate technical skills of digital audio recording and editing.
- Correctly and creatively write and produce a radio commercial and a program promotional announcement.
- Evidence collaborative abilities by working in an audio production team.
- Demonstrate a beginning/developing appreciation for the psychological power of sound/audio to influence emotional involvement in radio/audio/media/film programming and to be able to identify many of the techniques used to create those effects.
- Demonstrate a beginning understanding of the role of the “aesthetics of narrative” as a tool for encouraging audience involvement in radio/audio programming.

Required Text:

Alten, S. R. (2012) First Edition. *Working with Audio*. Course Technology, Cengage Learning, Boston, Ma.

#### Course Requirements:

- All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas before the beginning of class on the date indicated in the syllabus. Audio projects must be correctly exported in MP3 format from Audition for uploading to Canvas. Assignments that are late or submitted in any other manner or format than MP3 will not be accepted and will receive zero points.
- Three editing workstations, mics and headsets are available for your use in the KPLR Radio Studio. Because audio workstations are shared with other classes, plan ahead and schedule production and editing time early. Editing stations are only available at posted days and times that coincide with the days and times the TV studio is open (normally: Monday thru Thursday 10 am to 11pm & 3pm to 5pm on Friday. Closed Saturday, Sunday and school holidays.). Other possible times are limited to when the library is open. There is no access to the KPLR Studios when the library is closed. The inability to secure equipment or editing time due to lack of planning is not an excuse for not completing an assignment. Portable digital audio recorders are also available for check-out from the TV studio.
- All students must use Adobe Audition to complete assignments in this class. Demonstrating competency in this program is part of your grade. Using other equipment is not permitted and puts the quality of your productions and your grade at risk.
- Students are expected to complete assigned readings by the dates they are due and to be prepared to discuss and/or present on those topics in class. Reading quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester.
- Production projects may be played during class for discussion. Comments directed toward the producer should be constructive and given in a courteous manner.
- Projects are to be completed by the individual student unless indicated otherwise. Grades for projects that require teamwork will be given to the entire team and team members may be asked to grade the contribution of other members of their production team.
- Students must take both exams at the days and times listed in the syllabus.

#### Point Radio Participation:

- All students in this course will participate in a weekly commitment to the operation of Point Radio. You are expected to start on time, end on time and follow the format specifications for Point Radio/KPLR. All “broadcasts” are to be recorded, trimmed and uploaded to SoundCloud with clear identification for credit. You are expected to create/participate in 10 weekly “broadcasts” for minimum credit (maintenance of your course grade). If you complete fewer than 10, your final grade will be reduced depending on the number of programs produced/uploaded. More programs produced and uploaded may give you additional point value to your final grade.
- Students have the sole responsibility for their commitments to the campus radio station and will face significant penalties when those obligations are not met. On-air shifts must be covered even if the person cannot be there due to illness or extenuating circumstances. You must provide me with documentation for missing an air shift due to illness or emergency.
  - The student MAY switch duties with another person in the class. However, this must be arranged a minimum of 48 hours in advance and the Point Radio manager (not Rick) must be notified of the change prior to the person’s air shift or other responsibility.
  - News personnel carry the same responsibilities as on-air personalities. Contact the news director before noon if you cannot participate in your air shift due to illness or emergency situation.

- Failure to cover air shifts without a documented excuse will result in a penalty of 10% off the student's final course grade for each incident.
- In addition to on-air work, students in this class will be asked to assist with Point Radio events. Failure to follow through on these commitments will result in a deduction of Point Radio participation points.

#### Attendance:

- Attendance will be taken in all classes. As noted in the university catalog, students who miss 10% of class sessions (that means 1.5 sessions) will be reported to the Vice Provost of Academic Administration. Missing 20% of class sessions will result in the student being de-enrolled from this course. This rule will be strictly enforced. Remember missing ONE session of 275 is like missing a whole week of another class.
- The communication industry is time sensitive. Professionals in this business succeed or fail depending on their ability to meet deadlines and follow through on commitments. Now is an excellent time to develop good habits. With this in mind, students are expected to be on time to class. Entering the room after class has started is disruptive to other students and to the continuity of the session. Attendance is taken promptly at the time class is scheduled to begin. If you are not here when I take attendance, you will be counted as absent unless you see me personally at the end of class. Students who are chronically late may be asked to withdraw from the class.
- Attendance in class means that you are fully attending to the course. Students, who choose to read the paper, use their cell phone, engage in irrelevant and disruptive conversations, study for their next class, etc... will be asked to put their "extra-curricular" activities away. There are no exceptions to this policy, so please do not ask. Laptops and cell phone use are not permitted in class, unless permission is requested and received from the professor in advance. While in Bresee, you may use the "in class" computers for taking notes, etc.
- In the event that you miss class, you will be expected to get notes, handouts, and assignments from someone in class. **Do NOT ask Rick for notes.** You are responsible for missed material and should try to make a friend or two in this class that you can count on.
- It is the student's responsibility to maintain his or her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

#### Technology Policy

Students are not permitted to use laptop computers during class. Cell phones are not allowed during class. Put cell phones completely away – off the desk – for the entire class session. Do not be surprised if I ask you to remove the phone from your desk. Making audio or video recordings of class sessions are not allowed (except as directed by the instructor). Students may not mass distribute course content in any form without permission of the instructor.

#### Notice to Students with Disabilities

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,

the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

### Academic Dishonesty

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated in the university catalog, “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. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. Essentially, if you turn in work that is another person’s work, without giving credit to the original person, it is plagiarism and is punishable by an automatic failing grade in this class (see PLNU’s Academic Policies for more details). It is also possible to be expelled from PLNU if the student is found to be in the habit of dishonesty.

### FERPA Policy

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergrad student catalog.

### Changes to Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make amendments, additions or deletions to this syllabus. It is each student’s responsibility to stay current and be aware of any changes.

### Official Means of Communication:

The official means of communication at Point Loma Nazarene University is the “university email”. Your communications MAY be informally done using texting or other methods, but those are not official. If you must communicate with the professor concerning class attendance, grading, projects, policies or any other serious school business topic you must do it by email. Other methods are NOT official.

### Grading

Grades are based on the percentage system listed below. This enables students to keep track of their total score and to estimate their grade at any point in the semester.

Assignments (relative points as listed)	50%
Participation & Attendance	15%
Reading quizzes	10%
Exams (Mid-term & Final)	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

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Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

## **COPYRIGHT POLICY**

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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.

### **Course Calendar (as of 1/12/16)**

#### Week 02 - 1/19/16

Topic: Syllabus, Policies & Schedule; Point Radio orientation  
Reading: None

#### Week 03 – 1/26/16

Topic: Digital recording and editing; Audition orientation  
Reading: Text chaps. 9 & 12  
PointRadio/KPLR shows start this week

#### Week 04 – 2/2/16

Topic: Writing and producing program promos and commercials  
Reading: Mlodinow pp. 126 – 133 (on Reserve)  
Due: Audition competency due (15 pts.)

#### Week 05 – 2/9/16

Topic: Announcing; Characteristics of speech  
Reading: Text, pp. 302 - 303  
Due: Point Radio program promo (25 pts.)

#### Week 06 – 2/16/16

Topic: Consoles & Mixers  
Reading: Text chap. 8  
Due: Commercial script (20 pts.)

#### Week 07 – 2/23/16

Topic: Sound effects  
Reading: Text, pp. 303 - 306

#### Week 08 – 3/1/16

Topic: Hour 01: Review for Mid-term Exam  
Hour 02: TBD/Guest Speaker &/or Introduction to Storytelling (Part 1)  
Due: Commercial produced due (30 pts.)

3/7 - 11/16     Spring Break

Week 09 – 3/15/16     Hour 01: Mid-term Exam

Hour 02: TBD/Field Sound Effects  
Due: Three (possible) topics for final project

Week 10 – 3/22/16

Topic: Monitors & Microphones  
Reading: Text chaps. 5-7  
Due: Field Sound Effects (25 points)  
Due: Final production concept (20 pts.)

Week 11 – 3/29/16

Topic: Hour 01: Interviewing and Field Production  
Hour 02: Sound & Acoustics  
Reading: Text: Chapters 1 thru 4

Week 12 – 4/5/16

Field trip to KOGO. Meet in front of Cabrillo Hall at 2:50 p.m.

Week 13 – 4/12/16

Topic: Multi-track mixing and rerecording; Internet radio  
Reading: Text chaps. 13 & 14  
Due: Final production rough (30 pts.)

Week 14 – 4/19/16 (NAB Conference Week)

Topic: TBD: (Using music in media production?)  
Reading: TBD: (Text, pp. 306 – 309?)  
Due: KOGO reflection paper (20 pts.)

Week 15 – 4/26/16

Topic: Review for Final Exam & TBD  
Reading: Text, pp. 309 – 311  
Due: Final production (65 pts.)

**Week 16 – 5/3/16 Final: Tuesday – 4:30 pm to 7 pm**

Final Exam

NOTE: Please make sure your vacation travel plans accommodate your final exam schedule. All students must attend the final class session to pass this course. **There are no exceptions.**