

COM414 **Long Form Broadcast News**  
Spring semester, 2018

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There is no required text. You are expected to have a laptop available for use for in and out-of-class assignments. Only class-related materials should be accessed on your laptop during classes. ABSOLUTELY no cell phone use in class without the instructor's permission.

**Final Exam Policy:** The Final Exam is still being determined by the Liberty Station staff. I will be advising you.

Purpose of this course:

To develop skill sets necessary to produce in-depth storytelling on multiple media platforms while respecting journalistic ethics and adhering to the SPJ Code of Ethics as described on SPJ.org

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

- Critically analyze long form news stories
- Investigate and evaluate appropriate topics for long form reports
- Write and produce long form stories for possible use on multiple platforms: the internet, television and radio

Course requirements

- Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions
- Students are expected to actively participate in research and production meetings
- Students will be producing one or more projects for playback on multiple platforms.

How you can be successful in this class

Come up with ideas for stories that are visual, relevant and for which you have access. The topics should be evergreen and be able to be produced in one semester. Your idea can begin with a daily news story that has elements you can explore in depth which address a wider problem. For example, a teen overdose in Point Loma leads to a story on drug use in more affluent neighborhoods in the city.

How you can be successful in this class, Part 2

I want every student to have a chance to create something he or she can be proud of. To accomplish that, I need to review your project closely and not necessarily during our class time. This requires the students to provide me on a regular basis a progress report of your projects in writing. Maintain thorough notes throughout your project. These notes would include information on what your story is about, who are the people in your story, why you are choosing them, what documents or other research materials you are using. Also identify your video and audio sources. You should be constantly updating this folder so I can see your current status anytime I review your production folder.

Student deadlines for projects will vary according to the complexity of the work as determined by the instructor. Deadlines are not extended.

The finished scripts will be written in industry-accepted standards for news script format and style.

You are expected to coordinate with the professor on arrangements for equipment needed to complete your assignment.

Professional producers and reporters plan ahead, you should not wait until the last minute to set up your shooting schedules, editing schedules or to reserve your equipment.

All video assignments will be submitted on a flash drive.

### Grading

You will be graded on your class involvement, on reading/viewing assignments, and class lectures periodically throughout the semester. This will be 20% of your final grade

You progress reports will be evaluated for how thorough and complete they are. This is 20% of your final grade

Your projects will be graded on multiple elements: the project concept; degree of difficulty; how organized you are as you develop your project or projects; meeting all deadlines for scripts and your final finished story. Each student is expected to complete at least one project in the semester. Extraordinary efforts will receive extra credit.

This is 40 % of your final grade.

Final exam: It will cover key concepts discussed throughout the semester.

This is 20% of your final grade.

### Attendance

The instructor has a low tolerance for individuals who can't show up on time. It's discourteous and unprofessional. If you miss class more than 10 percent of the time, the instructor has the option of filing a written report, which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF, consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog.

This is explained in the Academic Policies section of the academic catalog.

### Ethics and academic honesty

It's the foundation of journalism and a requirement of this University that students always act in an ethical manner. Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained 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 someone else's work. If you are suspected of such behaviors you could receive a failing grade. You can appeal any discipline.

### Academic accommodations

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 request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing 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 needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

#### 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 (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.) 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/ graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.