



Point Loma Nazarene University

**Department of Literature, Journalism and Modern
Languages**

Wri110

College Composition and Communication

Four Units

Fall Semester, 2017

Professor Kara Sebastian deFreitas	
Meeting times: MWF 8:30-9:30	Phone: 619-849-2311
Meeting location: BAC 151	Email: Karadefreitas@pointloma.edu
Final Exam:	Office location and hours: TBA

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

The study of writing as a process, incorporating the principles of sentence, paragraph and essay composition with an emphasis on critical thinking. Use of computers in composing and research processes.

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the pursuit of personal awareness and skill development, focusing on analytical, communication and quantitative skills necessary for successful living in modern society.

COURSE GOALS

This course emphasizes that writing is a skill and a process; that is, like learning to ride a bike or play tennis, progress is achieved through practice. Writing improves through reading, time, patience, rewriting, editing and studying the skills of other writers. As a class we will study professional writers' work and learn together what is effective and successful about those pieces. Students will then write their own essays (4), seeking to present a strong thesis and focus, organize their ideas into coherent paragraphs, control their tone and limit their discussion to the assignment while keeping their audience in mind, and to punctuate their papers well, finally presenting a polished, clear and professional product.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student will: 1: Apply the conventions of the English language and creative skills in various academic writing genres.

2: Demonstrate knowledge of the stages of the writing process in academic writing: planning, drafting, composing, revising and editing.

3: Evaluate and utilize rhetorical modes of organization in writing compositions: narrative and argument.

4: Become proficient in English grammar and punctuation.

After completing WRI110, students will:

1. Demonstrate a greater understanding of the process of composition as inquiry;
2. Compose and revise more effectively by applying skills and techniques learned in the course;
3. Understand and apply more effectively the rules of English grammar and style;
4. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view in writing and spoken discourse.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Lunsford, Andrea. *The St. Martin's Handbook*. Eighth edition.

Atwan, Robert. *The Writer's Presence*.

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Any edition.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Essays: 40%

Quizzes, Homework, Attendance and Class Participation: 20%

Midterm: 10%

PLW: 5%

Final Research Project: 15%

Final Exam: 10%

Description of Requirements:

Formal Essays: You will write four, formal essays throughout the semester, three of which you will draft, edit and revise at home and during in-class peer editing workshops. These essays should average 1050-75 words (4pp), be double-spaced, and should use standard one inch margins. You will be expected to bring a well-executed draft to class four editing workshops. The fourth essay will be written during class (our midterm). This essay count does not include the diagnostic write, or the final exam.

Atwan Reading Assignments: In the class schedule you will find assigned readings from various twentieth century authors. At the end of each reading, you will answer three questions in response to the essay; expect to write three, well-developed paragraphs to respond well to these questions. You may hand write or type these; all are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Also, come to class very familiar with the essay, prepared to discuss it and at times be quizzed.

Handbook Assignments: Although not listed in the schedule, I will assign grammar-based practices from your handbook as I see what the needs are of the class.

Peer-Led Writes: Throughout the semester, you will come to class and write in-class in response to a prompt that a classmate has designed. A whole-hearted effort is expected with each of these; seek to write about two pages. The individual who assigned this piece of writing will then take home the essays, grade them, offer a cover page that gives the prompt and overall impressions of what they received, finally turning the project back in to me. You will receive a separate assignment sheet further detailing this requirement.

MLA Style Research Paper (and possibly a brief presentation): The culminating project of the semester will be a 14-15 page, MLA style, fully documented research paper. If we have time, we will hear presentations on these.

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.

WRITER'S STUDIO

The Writer's Studio is available to those students whose first essay and diagnostic exam indicate that they need, in order to be successful in Wri110, additional support from a trained tutor. Students who qualify for the Writer's Studio are registered for Wri097 and will need to successfully complete ten meetings with a tutor in order for a grade to be assigned for Wr110.

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 [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.