

The Art of Investigative Journalism

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FINAL EXAM IS THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 - 16

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.

GOAL — To recognize [that](#) all reporting entails some form of investigative journalism. Your curiosity and intellect will provide the foundation for you to develop skill sets that help determine what the story is or what its key elements are. Another goal is developing strong research skills in order to [uncover](#) [find](#) the facts to support your reporting. The ability to communicate with a wide range of people from all levels of our society is still another goal of the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION—We learn by doing. This class requires you to work as an individual journalist researching and developing investigative stories. You also will be working with other class members on teams. Your instructor will be your editor and expects students to act in a professional manner. You're also expected to develop story ideas, [cultivate](#) your own sources, respect your team members and meet ALL deadlines. Your editor will closely review all requests for additional time on a project.

COURSE OUTCOMES—What is required is a minimum of one project you have researched and reported on your own. In addition you will be involved in a group investigative project [where](#) all members must actively participate in developing and reporting the subject. By course's end, you will understand how to pitch a story, how to look for angles on stories other reporters miss, [and](#) learn [how](#) you can research quickly and efficiently. It is my expectation that students in the

class should be able to do all this and more by being aggressive and competitive while maintaining a strong code of ethics as described in the code of the Society of Professional Journalists.

HOW YOUR GRADE IS DETERMINED

A minimum requirement for success as a journalist is to be aware of the world around you. What this means is every time you come to class there is always the possibility of a quiz on world, national or local events. I also do a quiz as warranted following lectures. Sometimes the quiz may occur on the same day as the lecture, sometimes in the classes that follow. You will have to convince your editor to give you a makeup quiz if you miss a class. These quizzes may also be based on assigned reading from the course textbooks. The current events quizzes, textbooks and lecture quizzes scores are added in with mid-term and final exam scores for 50% of your grade. The balance of your grade is determined by your demonstrated skills in developing your own project as well as your team project or projects.

Broadcast or publication of a project is worth bonus points, to be determined by where the story appears and the difficulty of the subject matter. Stories that appear in community papers, local radio, web news sites, television or in campus media are eligible.

There is NO cell phone use in class. Laptops are OK to use for note-taking or class-related research.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

The Investigative Reporters Handbook, 5th edition, Bedford/St Martin's (available at student bookstore)

Journalism Law in California, Calaware

<http://tinyurl.com/qt6v6m5>
(Order through amazon.com)

Attendance

Missing a class means losing points for attendance, participation and in class work. If you must miss a class for a valid reason (illness, family emergency, school activity, etc.) then documentation is required. If you arrive after all students have signed in for the class, you will lose half your daily score. Don't be late, it shows a lack of professionalism.

Please read the Class Attendance section of your PLNU Catalog, carefully. If

students miss classes for a TTH course), faculty members may file a written report which may result in de-enrollment from the course. If you miss more than 20% of class meetings (approx. 8 for a MWF course and 6 classes for a TTH course), you may be de-enrolled without notice.

De-enrollment may have serious consequences on residence, athletic, and scholarship requirements; it may also necessitate a reduction or loss in your financial aid.

LJML Department Mission Statement

Welcome to the Department of Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages. Embodying the core values of a Christian liberal arts education in the Wesleyan theological tradition, and focusing on the power of language and story to shape us and our world, the LJML Department and programs will provide students with knowledge, skills, and experiences to equip them to understand, interpret, analyze, evaluate, and create texts as linguistic and/or artistic expressions of diverse human experiences. We value reading, writing, researching, speaking, and discussing as profound means of participating in the redemptive work of God in all of creation.

Public Discourse

Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and/projects; thus you should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse.

Academic Honesty

The Point Loma Nazarene University community holds the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all aspects of university life. Any violation of the university's commitment is a serious affront to the very nature of Point Loma's mission and purpose. Violations of academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding academic dishonesty, and malicious interference. Cheating is the use of unauthorized assistance that results in an unfair advantage over other students. It includes but is not limited to: Bringing and/or using unauthorized notes, technology or other study aids during an examination; looking at other students' work during an exam or in an assignment where collaboration is not allowed; attempting to communicate with other students in order to get help during an exam or in an assignment where collaboration is not allowed; obtaining an examination prior to its administration; allowing another person to do one's work and submitting it as one's own; submitting work done in one class for credit in another without the instructor's permission.

Plagiarism is the use of an idea, phrase or other materials from a source without proper acknowledgment of that source. It includes but is not limited to: The use of an idea, phrase, or other materials from a source without proper acknowledgment of that specific source in a work for which the student claims

authorship; the misrepresentation and/or use of sources used in a work for which the student claims authorship; the use of papers purchased online as all or part of an assignment for which the student claims authorship; submitting written work, such as laboratory reports, computer programs, or papers, which have been copied from the work of other students, with or without their knowledge and consent.

Falsification is the alteration of information or forging of signatures on academic forms or documents. It includes but is not limited to: using improper methods of collecting or generating data and presenting them as legitimate; altering graded work and submitting it for re-grading; falsifying information on official academic documents such as drop/add forms, incomplete forms, petitions, recommendations, letters of permission, transcripts or any other university document; misrepresenting oneself or one's status in the university.

Aiding academic dishonesty is assisting another person in violating the standards of academic honesty. It includes but is not limited to: Allowing other students to look at one's own work during an exam or in an assignment where collaboration is not allowed; providing information, material, or assistance to another person knowing that it may be used in violation of academic honesty policies; providing false information in connection with any academic honesty inquiry.

Malicious intent is misuse of academic resources or interference with the legitimate academic work of other students. It includes but is not limited to: removing books, journals or pages of these from the library without formal checkout; hiding library materials; refusing to return reserve readings to the library; damaging or destroying the projects, lab or studio work or other academic product of fellow students. A student remains responsible for the academic honesty of work submitted in PLNU courses and the consequences of academic dishonesty beyond receipt of the final grade in the class and beyond the awarding of the diploma. Ignorance of these catalog policies will not be considered a valid excuse or defense. Students may not withdraw from a course as a response to a consequence. Response Procedure

The following response procedure is recommended to faculty who discover a violation of academic honesty:

1. Fact-finding: The faculty member should attempt to speak or otherwise communicate informally with the student as a first step.
2. Communication of Consequence: Once the violation is discovered, the instructor should send a written communication to the student regarding the incident and the consequences. Instructors can give students an "F" on a specific assignment or an "F" in the course as a consequence of violations of academic honesty.
3. Internal Communication: The instructor should send a report of the incident to the department chair or school dean, the college dean, the Vice President for Student Development and the Vice Provost for Academic Administration. The report should include a description of the violation, the action taken, and evidence of the violation. The official record of the incident is maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Development.
4. Further action: Prior instances of misconduct under this or other student

conduct policies should be considered in determining disciplinary action for a present violation. As the Vice President for Student Development and the appropriate college dean consult, if additional action seems necessary it would be taken after consultation with the reporting instructor and communicated in writing to the student. Depending upon the seriousness of the incident or pattern of incidents, further actions can include probation, suspension or expulsion.

Appeal Procedure.

The following appeal procedure should be used by a student who wishes to appeal consequences associated with a finding of academic dishonesty:

1. Instructor: The student should present a written appeal of the penalty to the instructor involved. The instructor should respond in writing, with a copy of the response also sent to the department chair.
 2. Department Chair or School Dean: In the event that satisfactory resolution to the appeal is not achieved between the student and the instructor, the student may submit the appeal in writing to the department chair or school dean, who will review the appeal and send a written ruling to the student and instructor.
 3. College Dean: Student appeals not resolved at the departmental or school level should be taken to the appropriate college dean for review. The college dean will review the appeal and send a written ruling to the student, instructor and department chair or school dean.
 4. Administrative Committee: Student appeals not resolved at the college dean level can be submitted to an administrative committee including an academic administrator of the student's choice, the Provost or a designee, the Vice Provost for Academic Administration, and the Vice-President for Student Development or a designee. The appeal decision reached by this committee is final.
- Revision based on review of academic honesty policies at Purdue University, University of Notre Dame, Wheaton College, Azusa Pacific University and The University of Rochester. Definitions based on those at The University of Rochester and used by permission.

LJML Academic Honesty Policy

The LJML Department deems intellectual and academic integrity critical to academic success and personal development; therefore, any unethical practice will be detrimental to the student's academic record and moral character. Students who present the work of others as if it were their own commit plagiarism. Presenting another's work as one's own includes, but is not limited to, borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, and using the thoughts or ideas of others as one's own (using information in a paper without citation). Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. In either event, a written report will be filed with the department chair and the area dean. The dean will review the report and submit it to the Provost and the Vice President for Student Development. It will then be placed in the student's academic file.

Inclusive Language

Because the Literature, Journalism, and Modern Language department recognizes the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, will be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.

Diversity Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its p recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect toward gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture and other personal characteristics. In addition, the department of Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages is committed to taking a leadership position that calls for promoting a commitment to diversity in and out of the classroom and in the practices of writing, journalism, and the study of literature and languages.

FERPA

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member 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 student catalog.

Academic Accommodations

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of their courses as established by the instructors, students with special needs 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 contacts the student's instructors and provides written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual 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 special needs and

guarantees all qualified students equal access to the benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

Students have the right to appeal decisions regarding academic accommodations. In order to provide prompt and equitable resolution, the student must submit a written or verbal statement to the Director of Academic Advising who will conduct the appeal process in consultation with the Vice President for Student Development.

Maintaining Class Schedule via Online Registration

Students must maintain their class schedules. Should a student need arise to drop a course, they are responsible to drop the course (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university) and to complete all necessary official forms (online or paper). Failing to attend and/or to complete required forms may result in a grade of F on the student's official transcript.

Flexibility

The aforementioned requirements, assignments, policies, evaluation procedures, etc., are subject to change. Students' experiences and needs, as well as emerging knowledge, will be considered in modifying this course syllabus.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and does not constitute a contractual agreement between the student and the instructor or Point Loma Nazarene University.