



Department of Communication & Theater
 COM 3050 Electronic Media
 3 Units

SPRING 2020

Meeting days: Tuesday	Instructor title and name: Sarah Witmer, M.A.
Meeting times: 6:00- 8:40pm	Phone: N/A
Meeting location: LBST 207	E-mail: switmer@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: TBA	Office location and hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this interactive course, we will share ideas, knowledge and experiences. Students will be graded based on their contribution and involvement throughout the semester. This is a communications class, and I expect each student to communicate clearly, listen intently, ask questions and come to each session prepared. We will not only learn from the readings, research, and films, but also from one another. Several industry experts will be visiting classes either in person or through Skype, contributing their expertise on various topics we are covering. This class is meant to be informative, engaging, thought-provoking and fun.

This course will include a variety of reading and visual material: books and articles, films, documentaries and other online research. Some of the films or clips may occasionally include words or topics that some may find suggestive or provocative. This is not my intent. However, if you find any of the discussions or course content to be uncomfortable or offensive, please make me aware of this.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Define the different areas of media and the significance each one plays
2. Understand how technology and trends develop and how they influence society
3. Comprehend the importance of story and its ability to impact and persuade
4. Think creatively and strategically in approaching projects and problems
5. Design and conduct two research projects in a specific area of media

COURSE FORMAT:

There are only five students in this section this semester. *Five!* With such a small class size, the traditional lecture format is being thrown out the window. Instead, we will circle up and learn from each other. Each student will bring work, ideas, and experiences to share to the group discussion, which will be facilitated by Professor Witmer.

COURSE REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting by Syd Field (2005).

COURSE REQUIRED FILMS:

1. On the Waterfront (1954)
 2. Breakfast at Tiffany's (1958)
 3. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)
 4. Breakfast Club (1985)
 5. Rain Man (1988)
 6. Pulp Fiction (1994)
 7. Meet Joe Black (1998)
 8. The Royal Tenenbaums (2001)
 9. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)
 10. Mean Girls (2004)
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ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Weekly Film Analysis (12 @5pts each)	60
Chapter Reflections (6 @5pts each)	30
Exam	50
Guest Speaker Questions (6 @5pts each)	30
Screenplay Rough Draft	5
Screenplay final Draft	25
Weekly Script Challenge (6 @5pts each)	30
Meta Film Final Semester Reflection	50
Class Participation	20
Total Points	300

GRADING SCALE:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

GRADING STANDARDS:

“A’s”...are awarded for work that is **highly exceptional, shows insight and analysis** in submittals and class discussion and **goes beyond all minimal requirements**

“B’s”...are awarded for work that is above average and **goes beyond minimal requirements.**

“C’s”...are awarded for work that meets basic standards and requirements.

“D’s”.....are awarded for below average work that usually lacks minimal requirements.

“F’s”.....are awarded for work that clearly does not meet minimal standards, or is not completed.

GRADE CONCERNS:

If you feel that you were unjustly evaluated on any assignment, please talk with me within ONE week after the assignment has been returned. An appeal is welcome by scheduling an appointment. Please come with a well-reasoned and written explanation of why the grade should be changed, and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Asking for an appeal and defending your case does not secure, nor imply a change of grade. If at any point during the course you are concerned with your overall class grade or other issues in the course, please feel free to make an appointment or stop by my office. I want to help you learn and succeed in this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

- All assignments must be typed and submitted on Canvas before the start of class.
- Please note that standard APA font and margins are expected of one inch and 12 point font (Times New Roman). All papers should be double-spaced.
- All assignments are due on the day and time as specified. Please submit online. Late assignments will not be accepted unless previously discussed with the teacher.

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.

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.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

WEEKLY FILM ANALYSES (12 @ 5pts each =60 pts.)

Description: Each week, a film will be assigned. Students will watch this film and analyze it according to topics we are learning about in class.

Requirements:

- Actually watch the film
- Analyze storytelling, script, and any film elements
- Why do you think this film was pivotal in American film making?
- Describe a scene or two that you loved or hated and why

1. Type up analysis and submit on Canvas before class
2. Must be present to read to class in person for full points

Style Standard: One page, double-spaced, times new roman, paragraph format.

CHAPTER NOTES (6@ 5pts each = 30 pts.)

Description: Three chapters are assigned per class session. Student will read each chapter and summarize in paragraph or bullet point format.

Requirements:

- One page total
- Three chapters mentioned
- One quote from textbook
- Must present (in-person) to class for full points

Style Standard: Submit on Canvas before the start of class

EXAM (50 pts.)

Description: Exam on in class discussions and Chapters 1-18.

Requirements:

- Show up the day & time of the exam
- Do your best

Style Standard: TBD

GUEST QUESTIONS (6 @ 5pts each = 30 pts.)

Description: Students will type up and submit a list of 5 questions to ask each guest.

Requirements:

- 5 interesting, thought-provoking, and unique (to the speaker) questions
- Submit on Canvas before class

Style Standard: N/A

WEEKLY SCRIPT DRAFT (6 @ 5pts each = 30 pts.)

Description: Each week in class, students will be given a script-writing challenge.

Requirements:

- Must be present in-class to receive credit for delivery of script
- Must fulfill weekly script “challenge”
- Must respond to other students’ scripts

Style Standard: Proper script format can be found online

FINAL SCRIPT & PRESENTATIONS (25 pts.)

Description: Students will turn their story into a movie scene through all they have learned about storytelling and script writing this semester

Requirements:

- 2-5 minutes
- Proper script formatting
- Visual presentation to walk us through the script as you narrate
- Visuals for your “vision” and potential actors, locations, sets, etc.

Style Standard: Non-Applicable.

META FILM SEMESTER REFLECTIONS (25 pts.)

Description: Students will take this opportunity to reflect on what they have learned throughout the semester. Using the weekly film analyses from the entire semester, students will conduct a meta-analysis of how storytelling through film has changed throughout time. Students should also include how their understanding of storytelling has grown through the semester.

Requirements:

- Each movie covered
- Self-reflection included
- 5 pages
- Attach each film analysis from the semester

Style Standard: APA, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double-spaced. Students must submit the notes on Canvas well in advance to its due time, in case of any Internet or website glitches. The student is responsible for taking the quiz with plenty of time to contact the Library Helpdesk in case of any issues.

PARTICIPATION (20 pts.)

This is a hands-on, student-centered course. Therefore, you will be graded on your participation. Those who are energetic, contributory, and consistent with attendance will receive a high participation grade. As contribution to and involvement with the class goes down, will the grade. Contributions to our roundtable discussions, guest speaker Q & A sessions, and group projects will be considered when calculating the participation grade.

PLNU POLICY

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.

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.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Discussion/ Activity	Due This Day	Assigned Next
Tuesday 1/14	NO CLASS: Tuesday as a Monday Schedule		
Tuesday 1/21 #1	Syllabus overview & first project		Mini project Ch. 1-3 Movie Analysis
Tuesday 1/28 #2	Screenplay: Ch. 1-3 Movie Analyses	Ch. 1-3	Ch. 4-6

		Movie Analysis	Movie Analysis
Tuesday 2/4 #3	Screenplay: Ch. 4-6 Movie Analyses	Ch. 4-6 Movie Analysis	Ch. 7-9 Movie Analysis
Tuesday 2/11 #4	Screenplay: Ch. 7-9 Movie Analyses	Ch. 7-9 Movie Analysis	Ch. 10-12 Movie Analysis

Tuesday 2/18 #5	Screenplay: Ch. 10-12 Movie Analyses	Ch. 10-12 Movie Analysis	Ch. 13-15 Movie Analysis
Tuesday 2/25 #6	Screenplay: Ch. 13-15 Movie Analyses	Ch. 13-15 Movie Analysis	Ch. 16-18 Movie Analysis
Tuesday 3/3 #7	Screenplay: Ch. 16-18 Movie Analyses Exam Review	Ch. 16-18 Movie Analysis	
Tuesday 3/10	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK		
Tuesday 3/17 #8	EXAM TIME	Ch. 1-18	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis
Tuesday 3/24 #9	Guest Speaker: Movie Analyses Exam Returned	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script
Tuesday 3/31 #10	Guest Speaker: Movie Analyses Script Readthrough Script Assigned	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script
Tuesday 4/7 #11	Guest Speaker: Movie Analyses Script Readthrough	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script

	Script Assigned		
Tuesday 4/14 #12	Guest Speaker: Movie Analyses Script Readthrough Script Assigned	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script
Tuesday 4/21 #13	Guest Speaker: Beau A. (Film Startup) Movie Analyses Script Readthrough Script Assigned	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script
Tuesday 4/28 #14	Guest Speaker: Dan Jones (Virtual Reality) Storytelling through V.R. Movie Analyses Script Readthrough Final Script WORKSHOP night	5 Guest Qs Movie Analysis Weekly Script	Final Project & Meta Analysis
Tuesday 5/5	FINAL EXAM: Final Script Presentations	Final Project & Meta Analysis	