

 <p><b>POINT</b><sup>19</sup>  <b>LOMA</b><sup>02</sup> NAZARENE UNIVERSITY</p>	<p><b>*Media Communication</b></p> <p><b>*COM 1075 – Scriptwriting For TV/Film</b></p> <p><b>*3 Units</b></p>
Fall 2020	

<b>Meeting days:</b> MWF (synch/asynch)	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Professor Lauri Evans Deason, M.A.
<b>Meeting times:</b> 11-11:55am (synch)	<b>Phone:</b> communicate via email/Canvas to phone
<b>Meeting location:</b> online via Zoom	<b>Email:</b> ldeason@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> None (script)	<b>Office location and hours:</b> TBD

### 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.

#### Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world’s diverse societies and culture.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Scriptwriting for Television and Film* is a survey of the process, forms, and techniques for writing scripts for television and film – **specifically journalistic writing, branded content, and narrative and non-narrative scripts.** (Examples of these script forms include advertising and public service announcements, documentary, corporate training and promotion, news and sports, interview shows, reality shows, drama, comedy, and short films.) This course also includes the laws and ethics of scriptwriting and preparing for working in the television and film media.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon course completion, students should demonstrate an ability to:**

- Articulate the difference between journalistic, branded content, narrative and non-narrative writing for the screen and identify various examples of each type of screenwriting.
- Understand and practice storytelling in basic 3-Act Structure
- Envision creative concepts in film and television scripts and communicate those ideas
- Create basic industry standard rundowns, outlines, or pitches for each type of screenwriting
- Write compelling, correctly structured and formatted scripts
- Identify legally and ethically important dimensions of screenwriting

## **COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a three unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE**

This is a broad summary of major assignments, subject to change at the professor's discretion to promote proper learning and assessment. Please refer to Canvas for the most updated and complete information/requirements, as well as detailed instructions. **DO NOT WORK AHEAD.**

### **Homework Assignments:**

1. Three original story ideas for narrative short films
2. Three original log lines for narrative short films
3. Structural beats worksheets
4. 30 Second branded content concept pitch (video pitch)
5. Three News stories
6. Live TV segment outline and pitch
7. Revised logline and structural beats worksheet

**Final Assignment:** Narrative Short Film Script

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Grades will be based on the following:

Attendance/Participation	40%	Homework	40%	Final Script	20%
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### Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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

### 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. A 25% deduction penalty per class day will apply to all late assignments; final assignments will not be accepted past the due date. Extensions and Incompletes require advance written request and will only be granted in extremely unusual circumstances.

### PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of 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. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

#### Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

For this class, asynchronous assignments will be posted weekly on Canvas, on a Monday-Sunday cycle, usually for completion at your own pace during each cycle. Although assignments and resources will remain on Canvas for reference, the opportunity to participate for credit will expire each week at 8:00am Monday and a new week will begin. Asynchronous assignments will count toward your overall participation grade (40% of total class grade).

### ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

- On time arrival requires being settled at your computer or device, logged in, and ready to participate by the beginning of class. Please test your video and microphone settings prior to class. A late arrival of more than 10 minutes will be considered an absence.
- Please post the name by which you prefer to be addressed in a professional meeting (first and last) on your screen.

- Please remain on video chat setting at all times (no 'audio only') and mute yourself when you are not speaking.
- Personal attire, virtual or live backgrounds, and behavior should never be distracting.
- Beverages should be consumed discreetly; no food should be consumed during the session.
- Use of Internet or electronic devices not directly related to the session at hand is prohibited during class. Cell phones should not be accessed during class.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Students will be **required** to download industry standard screenwriting software of their choice. Software must be capable of script conversion to PDF format. Examples at a variety of price points include Final Draft, Movie Magic, Celtx, and FadeIn. Instruction regarding discounts and free trials will be provided in class. It is strongly suggested that students wait until after the beginning of class to purchase and/or download software.

Students will also be **required** to view media materials (television shows, films, etc.) assigned by the professor. Rental fees may be required to view such material, although the professor will endeavor to minimize that expense.

**Recommended** textbooks referenced during in-class learning, which may be purchased or rented at the students' option, include the following:

- Hueth, Alan C., *Scriptwriting For Film, Television, and New Media*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Routledge Press, ISBN 978-1138618107, February 25, 2019
- Riley, Christopher, *The Hollywood Standard 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.*, Michael Wiese Productions, ISBN 1932907637, August 1, 2009
- Seger, Linda. *Making a Good Script Great 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed*, Writers Digest Books, ISBN 1935247018, February 15, 2010

Additional book/resource recommendations may be added to Canvas or referenced in sessions.

## STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

## 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**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

### **SPIRITUAL CARE**

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer

available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact [student-tech-request@pointloma.edu](mailto:student-tech-request@pointloma.edu).

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.