

**Fall 2020**

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| <b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesday/Thursday  | <b>Instructor title and name:</b> David Coddon          |
| <b>Meeting times:</b> 5:30-6:45 p.m.   | <b>Phone:</b> 619-980-4183                              |
| <b>Meeting location:</b>               | <b>E-mail:</b> DavidCoddon@pointloma.edu                |
| <b>Final Exam:</b> Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. | <b>Office location and hours:</b> Upon request via Zoom |
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### **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.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course focuses on science reporting in all of its facets, including: brainstorm and identifying stories, conducting journalistic research virtually, via library/academic services and in the field; crafting articles for publication across multiple media platforms; and self-editing, fact-checking and proof reading material. The course also emphasizes the importance of and the parameters for writing science stories that are understandable and accessible to a lay or non-science-oriented readership or audience. This course may be repeated for credit as content varies up to six units.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Effectively conduct library research for the purposes of both preparing for interviews and providing background for science stories.
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- Gather information from interviews (in person, phone, email), field observations, documents, internet and academic databases, and social media platforms for the purpose of creating publishable science stories.
- Develop well thought out and applicable story ideas that have currency and urgency.
- Take notes efficiently.
- Write science stories adaptable across media platforms including for print, broadcast and online delivery.
- Write a persuasive science-oriented editorial supported by credible research and by an interview.
- Self-edit and proof read effectively as well as give constructive and helpful feedback to classmates.
- Deliver an oral presentation on one science story during the semester.

### **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 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- Assignment descriptions will be disseminated during class when introduced
- Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be available in Canvas course shell
- Associated Press style will be enforced on all written assignments
- Deadline schedule is subject to change

| <b>DATE PRESENTED</b> | <b>CLASS CONTENT OR ASSIGNMENT</b> | <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 08/20/2020E           | Explanatory Science Story          | 08/27/2020                 |
| 09/01/2020            | Science-Oriented Profile Story     | 09/10/2020                 |
| 09/15/2020            | Feature Story                      | 09/24/2020                 |
| 10/01/2020            | Science-Oriented Editorial         | 10/15/2020                 |
| 10/20/2020            | News Feature                       | 11/03/2020                 |
| 10/22/2020            | Oral Presentation                  | TBA                        |

|            |                             |            |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 11/5/2020  | Critical Writing Assignment | 11/12/2020 |
| 11/13/2020 | Final Course Project        | 12/1/2020  |
| 12/03/2020 | Final Examination           | 12/3/2020  |

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## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. “The Craft of Science Writing” (2020 by Siri Carpenter (The Open Notebook)
2. The Associated Press stylebook (as up-to-date an edition as possible)

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## STATE AUTHORIZATION (FOR ONLINE COURSES ONLY)

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 using the below link to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California. <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>

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## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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|------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Assignment distribution weight:    | Grading scale: |          |
| Major writing assignments: 60%     | A=93-100       | C=73-76  |
| Written responses to readings: 20% | A-=92-90       | C-=70-72 |
| Final Examination: 20%             | B+=87-89       | D+=67-69 |
|                                    | B=83-86        | D=63-66  |
|                                    | B-=80-82       | D-=60-62 |
|                                    | C+=77-79       | F=0-59   |

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## 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**

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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.

NOTE: The following policies are to be used without changes:

## **PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY**

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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**

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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**

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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 (a) 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.

### **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

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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.