



LJWL(es)
WRI 3050 sec 2 (3)
World Literature – Comic Books Edition!!

FALL 2020

Meeting days: T/R	Instructor title and name: Breeann Kirby
Meeting times: 1pm – 2:15pm	Office: BAC 122
Meeting location: BAC 103	E-mail: bkirby@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Open 12/3 – 12/4	Office location and hours: R/ 1:30pm-2:30pm
GroupMe: LIT3050 FA2020	Instagram: @naturenarratives
	Zoom: https://pointloma.zoom.us/j/3179624189

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.

FAQ

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What am I going to learn in this class?

LIT 3050, World Literature—Comic Book Edition!, offers a semester-long examination of graphic voices from a variety of backgrounds around the world. By listening to these writers, we will address questions about gender, race, class, and agency. Specifically, we will focus on the global nature of comics and how they both reinforce and critique the stories we tell about ourselves and the other, examining how these comics address social issues in various genres and styles.

We will read novels, short stories, non-fiction, and critical essays in a graphic format; we'll then discuss and question how these texts create their impact and lead us towards the larger conversation of how literature can offer moments of transformation. Class lectures will provide you with important historical/biographical information and literary theory/terminology to put

these works in context. Together, we will develop the means to engage in intelligent literary discussion and analysis.

The PLNU catalog says that LIT 3050 is

An advanced study of works, primarily in translation. The course focuses on selected themes, topics, and/or eras and places the works in their cultural contexts. Prerequisite(s): Fulfillment of the College Composition requirement, [LIT 2000](#), and Junior or Senior standing.

Why do I have to take this course?

The short answer is that you need this course or one like it to graduate. The better answer is that this course will make you aware of how stories affect our lives—an awareness you can take from the classroom into many areas of your life. Being able to listen to/read, analyze, synthesize, and enact stories gives you agency¹ in whatever field you may enter.

The more official answer is that this course is one of the components of the Foundational Explorations Program (FELO) at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of Exploring Arts and Culture. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, faculty supports a survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression—both artistic and literary (PLNU Catalog).

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.

The Institutional (ILO) and Foundational Explorations (FELO) Learning Outcomes addressed in this course are as follows:²

Context: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ
ILO #1: Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning
FELO 1a <i>Written Communication:</i> Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.
FELO 1b <i>Oral Communication:</i> Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.
FELO 1c <i>Information Literacy:</i> Students will be able to access and cite information as well as evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of information from a variety of sources.

¹ The ability to act with power and authority.

² SLOs have been taken from Dr. Pedersen's LIT 3053 syllabus.

FELO 1d Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.

FELO 1e Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

Context: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community

ILO #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments

FELO 2a Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal wellbeing.

FELO 2b Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.

FELO 2c Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

Context: Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith

ILO#3: Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings

FELO 3 Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.

Course Learning Outcomes for LIT 2000: Literature and Culture

CLO 1 Students will closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation. **(FELO 1d, 2b, 2c)**

CLO 2 Students will recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read texts: terms, modes/genres, element, periods (dates, writers, characteristics, developments). **(FELO 1d, 2b)**

CLO 3 Students will connect the literary works with their own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors. **(FELO 1d, 2b)**

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

What do I have to buy for this class?

1. McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*
ISBN: 97800609762552
2. Miyazaki, Hayao. *Nausicaa Of The Valley Of The Wind, V.1*
ISBN: 9781591164081
3. Abouet, Marguerite and Clement Oubrierie. *Aya*
ISBN: 9781894937900
Or
ISBN: 9781770460829

***Please note the ISBNs; this title has a few different versions. This title is also on reserve at the library.**

4. Moon, Fábio and Gabriel Bá. *Daytripper*
ISBN: 9781401229696
5. Abirached, Zeina. *A Game For Swallows*
ISBN: 9781575059419
6. Bui, Thi. *The Best We Could Do*
ISBN: 9781419718786
7. Some printouts from other material placed in the PAGES section of Canvas as well as a few written assignments.
8. Various office supplies (highlighters, pens, stapler, Scotch tape, paper for notes)

****In the interest of lightening the financial burden of college education, I have placed our additional readings on Canvas rather than constructing a course reader. *You must read this material before class AND either bring in printouts of the pages or a NON CELL PHONE device to read them on. If you do not, I will sweetly ask you to leave class to retrieve the materials (including books on the days we read the above books).* 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. However, any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.****

Are there any resources I can use online and/or on campus to help me?

Yes. The following are a few of my favorites.

Tutorial Services (i.e. tutoring, paper editing, review sessions & Academic Coaching) will be offered virtually during the 2020/21 academic year via *Brainfuse* and select Review Sessions will be conducted in Canvas. *Brainfuse* allows students to be tutored by faculty-recommended PLNU tutors and non-PLNU tutors. Tutorial services via *Brainfuse* include live tutoring, writing labs, and language labs for foreign languages. Tutoring in *Brainfuse* has the capabilities of screen sharing, smartboards, and audio/video capabilities. You can contact tutorial services at TutorialServices@pointloma.edu.

The Library has not only many books but also databases that allow you to do specific searches for any topic you want. Further, it also contains very helpful librarians who can assist you.

Canvas will contain this syllabus, the assignments, lecture videos, some readings, and other fun sundries throughout the semester. Sometimes you might have to print them for class. Please check Canvas regularly.

OneLook is an online database of dictionaries www.onelook.com.

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia www.wikipedia.org. Though this site can have errors from time to time, it is a wonderful place to look up any person, place, or event you encounter in your reading that you do not know. While I love Wikipedia for its ability to quickly provide information, DO NOT use this as a source for your papers.

Me I am available to answer any questions you may have. You can schedule appointments to see me in class or email me—**please include “LIT3050-2” in the subject** line of your emails to me.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

How do I pass this class?

1. Come to class
2. Do all the assignments
3. Turn them in on time

What specifically does that look like?

You will read a lot for this course. Granted they all are comic books of some type, but you will be expected to read, engage with the text, and have thought about it. The weekly reading quizzes will help you stay on task with the reading. Because comics by their nature are a visual medium there are no audio comic books. If you prefer to read your books aurally, you may want to look into another literature course. Further, some of these comics do have a cartoon equivalent; however, as you well know, the movie is rarely like the book. I would advise you to actually read our texts, perhaps even revel in the fact you are getting to look at some amazing and entertaining art for an upper division college course.

I have accounted for the reading in the points system and hours you must spend to meet the required 112.5 - 125 hours for this course. Like all of 2020, this semester will probably be a bit like a rollercoaster. You will get the benefit from this course in proportion to how much you engage with the content. I expect you to read, engage with the text, and have thoughts about it. The weekly reading quizzes will help you stay on task with the reading. And there will be some sort of writing due every week usually in the form of Instagram posts. This isn't to scare you but to let you know the pacing of the course.

Since the writing is mostly on social media does that mean it can be some sort of stream of consciousness string of words I wrote five minutes before it was due?

Nope. Nor can any other writing you do for me.

Unless done in class, anything you submit to me needs to be

- a. Typed and double spaced in the appropriate format (the default is MLA);
- b. Demonstrate you have been thinking about the problem/topic you are writing about;
- c. Be free of typos.

So I have to have perfect grammar or you will fail me?

No. Typos are not grammar mistakes. Typos are ignoring the things that you already do proficiently in your writing on social media, email, and texting. Things like not putting a period at the end of a sentence Or not capitalizing my name, which is breeann Kirby (another typo is spelling my name wrong—or your name, for that matter). Or when you are writing.³ You need to have complete thoughts. Typos are one of my HUGE pet peeves. They are not just mistakes

³ Note the three typos here.

but a sign of disrespect to me and your peers who will be working with your writing. Most typos can be easily caught if you read through your paper at least once before you turn it in (pro tip: read your paper out loud. You'll catch a lot of stuff that way.) Because no one is a perfect proofreader, I will allow one typo every page (meaning if you have a five-page paper, you may have up to five typos total on any of the pages in that work).

What are the specific assignments?⁴

Contract (20points): You will write a contract for the grade you wish to earn in this class and evaluate yourself with regards to the contract at the middle of the semester and the end.

Quizzes (50points): There will be 12 quizzes that will cover our readings. You need to do 10 of the 12 with a minimum grade. These quizzes will happen about once a week on Canvas. There will be no make-up quizzes given.

INSTAdiscussions (100points): As we read and discuss our texts, I will post discussion questions on Instagram. First, you will create an academic Instagram account (not your personal account—you don't want to mess up your curation). Then you will follow me: @naturenarratives to see the prompt. You must post your answer to the prompt which will be both a photo (can be taken from our reading) and an explanation as to why that photo answers the question AS WELL AS the relevant hashtags. You may not duplicate a classmate's photo; nor should you use photos you rip from the web. Rather, try for an original picture you took. Remember, this is social media; have fun with it. You must post on the due date, and you will comment (in addition to liking) at least two other of your classmate's responses. I will post 12 questions; you must respond to 10.

FE Reflection Paper (30points): Drawing from your experience in class, you will choose one work from our course readings that has impacted your understanding and appreciation of cultural perspectives to some degree and write a 2- to 3-page response. It will be submitted in MLA format both in paper copy the last day of class.

Final Exam (25points): This will be a comprehensive exam. Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedule site and in this syllabus. No requests for early examinations or alternative today's will be approved.

***/**Presentation (40points):** You will craft a 4-minute presentation to present the emerging issues, structures, themes, and authorial background of a graphic writer/illustrator of your choice (and genre) we have NOT read together as a class. The selections will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. It will be your job to make your classmates and Prof. Kirby wish that we had been assigned to read your chosen text. More details and rubric for this assignment are on Canvas.

****Creative Response from Class Text (30points):** You will create a creative response inspired by one of our texts. This response can be a short comic, a performance, a written story or poem, a video, pretty much you can respond in any way you'd like. You will do a short presentation of your work.

Course Participation (35points): Effective learning happens in a dynamic environment. Therefore, you must interact with the instructor and the other students regularly. If you wish to earn your participation grade, you must have a good attitude; you must read all of the readings; you must do the participation assignments on Canvas or in class; and you must speak out. Make it your goal to come up with one good thought for every module

⁴ * denotes a B grade assignment/ ** denotes an A grade assignment.

and to share it. If we meet face-to-face, you must turn off your cell phones when you enter the classroom; use of cell phones will not be permitted unless you have an academic accommodation OR I give you specific permission. Other electronic reading devices are allowed on the days we have comics in digital format; **however, if you use your device to disengage from course discussion, I will sweetly ask you to leave that day and try again next time.**

For all of these assignments, further instructions will be given on Canvas and/or in class

There are a lot of people in this course and I am shy about speaking or posting publicly. Do I really have to talk and post? And if I do, how do I know that I will not be treated unkindly?

First, I feel you. I actually have a strong sense of stranger danger and hate talking in front of people. I am nervous every time I teach, but practice has made it easier and easier.

Second, it is important for you to practice speaking and posting publicly now when you are in a safe space with an advocate (me); again, practice will make it easier and easier. Respect in this course is a must. Again, this course is a safe space. As we discuss and analyze works that may address potentially emotional topics, we will encounter many different viewpoints within the course. Much of the work we will do in this course is cooperative. You should think of all your reading, writing, and speaking for and in course as public, not private, discourse. **By continuing in this course, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the course.**

For those of you who are already strong and confident in your opinions and abilities, be sensitive to others who are not. Sometimes take the lead in recognizing when others want to talk, asking them for their opinion and feedback. In order to be a good participant in this course, you must be sensitive to your fellow learners, recognizing them as human just as you are.

As we share ideas, personal insults and comments will not be tolerated. I will ask you to leave the discussion or class if you cannot be kind. If you aren't sure how to phrase your opinion, please ask me.

For all of us, assume the best about the person speaking. Sometimes we need to hear what we are saying before we understand exactly what we are saying. Ask for clarification; respectfully disagree. The best rule to follow: **be kind.**

A lot of course discussion seems to come from our outside experiences and opinions, do I need to take notes?

Absolutely. Note taking is a valuable skill in every discipline and should be practiced whenever possible. Sometimes I may SPEAK information during lecture that is important. It is your responsibility as an active participant to take notes.

IF WE MEET F2F: This is COVID-times, will I be required to wear a mask in class?

Absolutely yes. I know that different groups of people have differing opinions about masks, and I respect the conclusions that all of us have come to about this highly unfashionable and uncomfortable item of clothing. However, I'm going to follow PLNU's official policy that while

we are face-to-face all of us will wear masks give each other at least 6 feet of social distance. Even if you aren't masking and distancing elsewhere, I'm asking you to respect these requirements while you are in my course. If you don't want to wear a mask, I respect that choice, but I will ask you to leave our gathering and complete the participation via the online options that I have provided.

Here is some official PLNU language about COVID-19 safety in class:

Everyone in class will wear a face covering, unless there is a documented health related issue. If so, students should work with the Disability Resource Center to discuss their needs. The instructor can also use a face shield in place of a mask if at least 6ft distanced from everyone, if closer instruction is needed, they must use a face covering, either by itself or under their face shield.

A face shield is not an acceptable replacement for students, unless worn over a face covering. Faculty are being allowed this adjustment to aid students who may be hearing impaired and facial gestures or reading of lips is needed.

If a student arrives in class and is not wearing a face covering, the faculty will ask them to wear one. If the student refuses, the faculty will ask the student to excuse themselves from class. If the student refuses, the faculty member will call campus safety to escort the student. In either refusal case, a conversation should be scheduled between the chair of the department and student. Failure to follow communicated health guidelines will be considered a violation of the Student Handbook and can result in student conduct sanctions up to and including loss of housing privileges or suspension. These sanctions will be communicated by a Resident Director or the Dean of Students.

How will I know my grade in the class?

To eliminate grade anxiety, I've set this course up on a contract grading model. This model means that you can **choose** which grade you would like to earn right now at the beginning of the semester and then **allocate your time** wisely to earning that grade. A written contract is due the third week of class that states the grade you intend to earn in the class as well as the work you will do to meet contract; I will then ensure you meet your learning goals. At two other points in the semester, you will evaluate your contract and contribution to the course. You are free to change your mind during the semester about what grade you wish to earn, but we must then meet to negotiate your new contract.

I will not accept work that is unfocused and rife with grammatical and logical errors and typos. If you happen to submit an assignment that appears to be the product of lazy engagement with the material, you risk not meeting the conditions of our grade contract; I will allow you the opportunity to redo two assignments if they do not meet the standards of your contract, not including quizzes, midterm and final exams. **If I accept your work, it means you met contract and are earning the grade you chose.** I assume that none of you want a grade of D or F; if you are interested in a grade lower than a C, please meet with me to discuss your options.

A note on points: you may have noticed that each assignment is worth a certain number of points. These points are how much time I expect an assignment to take you. For example, I

expect each quiz to take you no more than 30 minutes; thus, I've allotted 5 hours (50points) for you to take ten quizzes. To meet accreditation, you are expected to spend 112.5 - 125 hours on this course (~37.5 hours per unit). Below is the breakdown of hours to reach that goal:

Hours	Activity	
55	Reading	
35	Class Participation (including meeting, various activities, and listening to lectures)	
29.5	Assignments	
	Contract	2
	Quizzes	5
	INSTAdiscussions	10
	Presentation	4
	FE Reflection Paper	3
	Creative Response	3
TOTAL HOURS	Final	2.5
119.5		

Of course, some of you will take shorter or longer to do a particular activity. The goal here isn't to be perfectly accurate, just fair in assessment of how long an activity should take you. I've multiplied the hours by 10 so that the points look a little more like we are used to, but I will not be giving partial credit for activities: you either get full credit or not at all (in which case, I will give you an opportunity to try again).

So how many hours/points do I need to get for a contracted grade?

70-79%: C

To earn a C grade in this course, you will:

1. Carefully read each assigned text (550points);
2. Create a contract for your grade, evaluating it twice in the semester (20points);
3. Contribute to general course discussion and lectures (150points);
4. Complete the number of participation activities required for a C-grade (140points);
5. Turn in your assignments on time;
6. Pass 5 quizzes with an average score of 60% (30points);
7. Contribute to 7 discussion questions on Instagram (70points);
8. Submit your FE Reflection Paper (30points);
9. Pass the final exam with a 70% or better (17.5points).

**For a grade of C+, you will produce high-quality work and be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback both in the classroom and on Instagram.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of a C. If you do not do C-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the C level. Thus you can earn a C- or a C+.

80-89%: B

To earn a B grade in this class, you will:

1. Carefully read each assigned text (310points);
 2. Create a contract for your grade, evaluating it twice in the semester (20points);
 3. Contribute to general course discussion and lectures (150points);
 4. Complete the number of participation activities required for a B-grade (160points);
 5. Turn in your assignments on time;
 6. Pass 10 quizzes with an average score of 70% (50points);
 7. Contribute to 10 discussion questions on Instagram (100points);
 8. Submit your FE Reflection Paper (30points);
 9. Pass the final exam with an 80% or better (25points);
 10. Create and give a 4-minute presentation on a comics writer/author/illustrator of your choice that we will not read as a class, signing up for this presentation by week 7 via Canvas (40points);
- *For a grade of B+, you will produce high-quality work and be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback both in the classroom and on Instagram.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of a B. If you do not do B-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the B level. Thus you can earn a B- or a B+.

90-100%: A

To earn an A grade in this class you will do all of the assignments listed for **B and C grades (86%)** as well as

1. Create and present a creative response to one of our course readings (30points);
2. Pass the final exam with at least a score of 85% or better (25points).

**For a grade of A, you will be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of an A. If you do not do A-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the A level. Thus you can earn an A- or an A (sorry there are no A+s, but you are all A+ in my heart).

It's halfway through the course, and I haven't had any emails from you about my grade.

How will I know if I am awesome and still on contract? Should I be nervous?

First, you are awesome! Never doubt that. Your grades do not make you an awesome person; how you engage in life does. But I know we all care about grades, so second, if you are doing the assignments according to one of the contracts listed above and you have not heard from me about them, it means that you are doing a great job and are on track for your contracted grade. The only time I will initiate contact about your grade is if you are NOT meeting your contract. However, you are always welcome to ask me about your grade or performance in course at any time in the semester.

I wrote the most amazing post on Instagram and then it deleted it and told me my account was blocked. What do I do?

I'm sorry that totally sucks. One way to avoid this problem is to not wait until the last minute to post. Instagram often interprets a burst of many people posting the same hashtags at the same time as bots and shuts down the accounts. If you choose to do your posts earlier than the due date (I will put them up about a week before they are due), then you will not be seen as a bot.

But I didn't post earlier, I'm looking at the FAQ because I posted at the due date and my post was deleted. So what do I do now?

Did you COPY your response BEFORE posting it, so you can paste it into an email or new post? If so, try to post the text again without the hashtags. Then add the hashtags as a comment below the main post. If that doesn't work, try to post again without hashtags and tag me in the image. If your account has been blocked, send the image and post to me in an email with the appropriate subject line. Then immediately contact Instagram and let them know that your account is for a university course and ask them to restore it. They will.

If you didn't copy your post before you posted it, then I am sorry, the post is gone; you will have to rewrite it. Consider it a hard but good lesson (like back in 2004, when I didn't back up my Master's thesis and lost 50 pages when the computer randomly shut down—you can bet I save my work regularly now). Rewrite your post, COPY it, then try the above strategies to get it posted.

I successfully posted an amazing INSTAdiscussion. How do I know whether you've seen it?

Hashtags are important because that is how I will search for those of you who completed the prompts. Usually within five days, I will like all the Instagram posts to let you know that I have noted them for your contract. But sometimes I miss things. If you don't see a like within one week of posting, please contact me, using the appropriate subject line in your emails, so that I can like your post.

Will you assign extra credit?

During a given semester, opportunities for extra credit may arise. These assignments are often difficult and give you a chance to make up elements of our contract; therefore, they require *extra* effort.

How do I contact you?

At the top of the syllabus, all of my contact information is listed. If you choose to email me or DM via Instagram, please indicate LIT3050-2. If you don't, I will sweetly remind you to format your email correctly.

Also, I have set up a GroupMe for our class. You can join here:

https://groupme.com/join_group/60816308/8BK6pnnG or through the email invitation I sent you. You may text me through that as well. You are welcome to text me at any time; however, I

⁵ Wow, I remind you a lot about your email header in this FAQ. Do you think it's important to me? 😊

will commit to being responsive to your texts between the hours of 9am and 8pm, Monday-Thursday. If you text outside of those hours, I may or may not respond right away.

A	93-100 Percent
A-	90-92
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-68
D	67-63
D-	62-60
F	Below 60

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

What if I turn in a late assignment?

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.

That said, life happens to all of us, including me. So sometimes we miss deadlines. To allow for that possibility, I have scheduled 12 quizzes and 12 INSTAdiscussions rather than the required 10. While I will not accept a late submission for either, having those two extra submission possibilities should provide you with some breathing room if life happens and you miss one.

For the other assignments, come talk to me if you know you will miss one ahead of time OR email me immediately if you do miss one. Remember to put **LIT3050-2** in the subject of your email, or I will sweetly request that you do so before addressing your concerns.

What if you don't accept an assignment?

If your assignment does not meet the standard of our contract, I will hand it back to you. You will then have until the next class period to revise it to meet contract.

What if I don't turn in an assignment at all?

I will still like you. However, failing to do assignments (or adequately revising any ones I request) will result in a voided contract and a letter grade of D or F for the course. Of course, you should chat with me about any circumstances that maybe had you miss an assignment because we may be able to revise your contract to a satisfactory end.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

What if I have to miss a class or participation activities?

You must participate to pass the class. However, I do understand that emergencies do come up. If you do choose to skip a portion of the course, you are responsible for the material covered and assignments given/due. **You must get this information from another student (not your instructor).**

As PLNU notes,

*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.

Distracting and disruptive behavior will be considered an absence.

Okay, Prof. Kirby, that's all well and good but it is COVID-times, so what if we aren't meeting as a class or I catch the Rona or I have clearance to take this class fully online? Because this is COVID-times and things get squirrely fast, I have tried to build in flexibility within our course for the contingency that we won't be meeting face to face. Thus, lecture content is recorded on videos and our face-to-face time will be reserved for group discussion of the text, clarification of lecture content, and other participation activities. These participation activities and discussion opportunities will also have a counterpart on Canvas just in case we don't meet. I will expect you to watch the videos **BEFORE** you attempt any participatory activities.

This reminds me, it is COVID-time, how is this class working as a hybrid? I've never taken one of those kinds of classes before except for last semester which totally sucked.

I've never taught a hybrid course before, and last spring was my first attempt at online. So we are in the same boat. I've spent the summer doing a lot of learning about how hybrid and online courses function and I have definitely learned: IT WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS A FULLY FACE-TO-FACE COURSE. I think it's important for us all to note and mourn that there is an element of connection and accountability that will be lost in this format. At times, it may feel weird and lonely. But deep breath. We are in this together and I've set up some things that I hope will ensure your success in the class.

1. **All online content will be asynchronous.** This will allow those of us who perhaps have to take this course online the breathing room to address whatever else is going on in their lives without showing up to a Zoom class twice a week. I will host weekly office hours as indicated at the top of the syllabus. These are optional. I am also available to meet with you by appointment.
2. **There will be a couple of notable exceptions.** We are meeting synchronously for the first day of class. Any other exceptions are noted in the course outline.
3. **The course is divided into weekly modules.** Each module will open at 10pm on the Sunday of its week and will close at 11:59pm on Saturday. This is to give you a few glorious hours where you have to take a bit of a break in that gap on Sunday.
4. **You will need to complete a NOTECARD in order to open the week's module.**
5. **There will always be open WK x | Assignments and Readings Modules.** The contract, presentation, FE reflection, and creative assignment will all be available for you to work on and submit as early as you want to but will be ultimately due on the day listed the syllabus. Also, if you want to read ahead, I will have all of those available.
6. **Quizzes are due Wednesdays by 11:59pm.**
7. **INSTAdiscussions are due Wednesdays by 11:59pm.** Comments are due by Saturdays 11:59pm.
8. **Participation activities that require comments after an initial post have two due dates: initial post by Wednesdays by 11:59pm; comments by Saturdays 11:59pm.**
9. **Bigger assignments (contracts, presentation, etc . . .) are due Saturdays 11:59pm.**

Though I've done a lot of learning this summer about hybrid courses, abstract learning is not the same as actually doing it. As the course continues, I expect us to have to tweak a few things once we get an idea of how this type of course is best organized. **Your feedback is important!** Please let me know how you are doing in this course and if this structure is working. We can do this together! Let's be flexible and kind to each other as we work through this semester.

Here are some ground rules we can all follow:

1. Be kind to each other. This is super stressful for all of us and a totally new situation. What we need first and foremost is compassion for all of our situations.
2. Be patient and flexible. We may attempt things that don't work out. One of us may come up with a better idea of how to make things work better. Engage. You'll get more out of the class the more you engage. Give me suggestions!
3. Communicate. If something seems off or unclear, please kindly (see point 1) bring it up. My goal is that you all succeed and finish this semester strong, setting you up for your future.

It's noon on Monday, and I can't access WEEK X's module!! What do I do?

Breathe. Did you submit the NOTECARD that I require you to do to open the module? If not, go complete the NOTECARD; the module should then be accessible to you.

If you did the NOTECARD and the module still isn't accessible, wait an hour and try again (sometimes Canvas is slow).

If it still isn't open, please see the "Help & Technical Support" link on the Homepage and you can also send me an email.

What if I don't have good WIFI or a working computer?

Please let me know. I can't help you if I don't know what your struggles are. While I won't be able to pay for your WIFI, I can direct you to places at PLNU that can help. Both the university and I are committed to your success. Specifically, if you don't have the necessary technology this fall (e.g. a laptop or access to reliable internet), please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **at its scheduled time**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

What if I want to use other people's writing in my writing?

As Solomon wisely noted, "There is nothing new under the sun." Thus, it is perfectly okay to reference other texts (written or visual) in your own writing. However, you must give credit to any ideas or sentences that are not originally yours or aren't common knowledge. To omit doing this action is an act of plagiarism. Writing is often collaborative, and writers share and borrow from each other all the time (just as I did from other PLNU faculty when I wrote this syllabus). There are ways to do this that are acceptable (such as taking suggestions from a professor or a peer), but there are also ways to use other people's ideas or words in a way that is considered plagiarism (such as passing off somebody else's work—even just a sentence—as your own). We will discuss this further in class.

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any word or idea that is not your own must be cited correctly. As explained in the University Catalog,

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.

If you aren't sure if you are plagiarizing (you sweet, naïve thing), check out the information on the university cheating and plagiarism policy at <http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=864>

Or you can visit PLNU's library which also has an excellent tutorial on how to avoid plagiarism. Finally, you can always talk to me. If you're wondering if you may have paraphrased too closely, be sure to ask before you turn in the assignment. You will not be penalized if you ask first.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

What if I need accommodations in your class?

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 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.

Also, come see me if you think you may need some assistance in passing this class.

**This syllabus is a contract. If you continue in this course,
then you agree to comply with the class policies as stated here.**