

Point Loma Nazarene University

Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing and Languages
SPA 4085 Senior Seminar (3 units)
Syllabus, Spring 2021

Professor: Margarita Pintado
Telephone: 619-961-5986
Email: mpintado@pointloma.edu
Office: Bond Academic Center/ Zoom
Office Hours: By appointment
Class meeting time: Tuesdays 12:00pm

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:

A course designed to reflect upon and to integrate issues of culture, civilization, language and literatures of the Spanish-speaking world. Research is conducted to see how areas such as cultural contrasts, linguistic and lexical variations, and political and artistic realities have influenced modern literary pieces. Completion of a portfolio and a summative evaluation of language skills will be required.

Required Texts:

Each student will evaluate from his/her own interests and will choose the most pertinent readings according to his/her future career plans. These selections will then need to be approved by the Professor for legitimacy, value and purpose. We will discuss more about the readings in class, and we will come to an agreement on these.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Create a written portfolio that exhibits written skill levels at the advanced low level (ACTFL standards);
2. Analyze literary pieces from a variety of perspectives;
3. Converse in Spanish at the advanced low level (ACTFL);
4. Exhibit reading comprehension at the advanced low level (ACTFL)

- Discuss and write about the influence of his/her perspective on cultural interconnections through engagement with local, national or international communities.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Evaluation: The Final grade will be determined according to the following scale:

Professional Portfolio with narrative reflections 35%
 Final Exams- Oral Proficiency 15%
 In-class Essay 10%
 Final Presentation 30%
 Participation 10%

Grades will be based on the following:

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	

Signature Assignments

1. Written Communication/ Critical Thinking

Academic writing assignment as required for the portfolio, as well as for the research paper: literature or film analysis or critique. There will also be a timed in-class writing assignment/ final essay.

2. Oral Communication

ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview, to be scheduled with Prof. Mitchell via email: jmitchel@pointloma.edu

3. Quantitative Reasoning

Each student will develop a research a project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities. 4. Informational Literacy/ Oral Communication Each student will develop a research project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15 4 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities.

4. Informational Literacy/ Oral Communication

Each student will develop a research project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities.

1. Professional Portfolio Requirements (35%)

- a. Professional – 2 curriculum vitae/ résumé in English and Spanish
- b. Academic – Samples of the student's best work. This should include three written pieces: Research paper and/or Literary/film critique (2), Cultural essay (1).
- c. Service – A reflective piece that includes a summary of either current or previous service.
- d. Cultural Connections – A written reflection of the student's Study Abroad Experience: include perspectives on intercultural connections and international communities, how the culture differs from one's own and what was learned. Students may also comment on interdisciplinary activities, trips, hobbies and any other activity related to the Hispanic world according to his/her individual experience during his/her stay abroad.

2. Summative Exams, written and oral (15%)

In order to determine competency levels, there will be an exit interview. The results of this will provide a point of reference for the student and the Department. The determined competency level will provide insight into how and where the student will be able to function in the target language, how much each student needs to improve. It will also allow the Department to evaluate how well the program is working and if it is fulfilling its goals. In addition, the University will give an exit exam of its own to each student enrolled in this course.

-Oral Proficiency Interview (Interview to determine oral level of competency)

3. In-class Essay (10%)

This essay will require students to respond to a prompt in-class and demonstrate their argument, organization of ideas and thoughts, and sophisticated writing style.

4. Final Presentation (30%)

Each student will develop a research a project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes

of presentation and 15 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities. The presentations will take place at a public event celebrating this accomplishment.

5. Participation (10%) Students are expected to come to class prepared, engage with one another for editing and critique, work on revisions throughout the semester, and participate in a learning community of respect and collegiality.

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.

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.

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 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

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.

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

Since most courses will have online components, 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.

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