

**Literature, Journalism,  
Modern Languages**

**LIT2000: Nature Writing**

**Units: 2**

Fall 2021

**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.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Dr. Eddie Matthews

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The University catalog describes this course as a "study of representative works of literature and cultural contexts." It falls under the General Education category of "Seeking Cultural Perspectives." We will be reading and discussing works of fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction that address the natural world and our role in it in order to gain an understanding of "human endeavors from a historical,

cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression--both artistic and literary.”

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this LIT 2000, you should be able to

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation. ([GELO 1d, 2b](#); [PLO 2, 3, 5](#))
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts ([GELO 1d, 2b](#); [PLO 2, 3, 5](#)).
3. Connect the works with their own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors. ([GELO 1d, 2b](#); [PLO 1](#))

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES**

1. Elder, John, and Robert Finch, editors. *The Norton Book of Nature Writing* (College Edition). W. W. Norton & Company, 2002.
2. *Princess Mononoke*. Directed by Hayao Miyazaki. Studio Ghibli, 1997.

## **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 2-unit class delivered over 8 weeks (based on 37.5 hours of student engagement per credit hour).

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Student grades will be posted in the Canvas grade book no later than midnight on Tuesday of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the comments posted in the grade book as these comments are intended to help students improve their work. Final grades will be posted within one week of the end of the class. Grades will be based on the following:

### **Grade Scale (Percentage)**

A 93-100%	C+ 76-79%
A- 90-92%	C 73-75%

<b>B+</b> 87-89%	<b>C-</b> 70-72%
<b>B</b> 83-86%	<b>D</b> 60-69%
<b>B-</b> 80-82%	<b>F</b> Below 59%

## **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates posted. If missing assignments result in your failure to meet learning outcomes, this instructor may give up to a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Friday, the last day of class.

While there are due dates for weekly assignments, you are welcome to post your work earlier in the week. In our online discussions, late work means that others may not have the opportunity to respond to your comments. It also means that you will not have the benefit of as much interaction with other students as you will have if your assignment is posted on time. If you know you will be away on the day your assignment is due, please post your work before you leave.

Assignments will be considered late if posted after midnight Pacific Standard Time on the day they are due.

## **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.

## **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

Because the Literature, Journalism, and Modern Language department recognizes the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, should be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.

## **PUBLIC DISCOURSE**

Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and projects; thus you should think of all your writing and speaking as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the class.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect toward gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture and other personal characteristics. In addition, the department of Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages is committed to taking a leadership position that calls for promoting a commitment to diversity in and out of the classroom and in the practices of writing, journalism and the study of literature.

## **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Students taking online courses are expected to attend each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes posting in a graded activity in the course. (Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.)

Regular and punctual attendance is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. As a student in this course, you will have a minimum attendance requirement of three days each week. This means you will need to log into Canvas and post an assignment or response on at least three days in each week. Any day missed below this minimum requirement will count as an absence. You may be dropped from the course if two such absences are recorded during the class and **will be** dropped if four such absences occur or if you fail to attend class in any given 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**

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.

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

## **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.

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