



College Composition: WRI 1010, Sec. 5
Dept. of Literature, Journalism, Writing, Languages,
and Environmental Studies
Fall 2021
4 units

Meeting days: M/W/F	Instructor: Prof. Karen Seehaus
Meeting times: 10:55am–12:10pm	E-mail: kseehaus@pointloma.edu
Meeting location: Liberty Station (LBRT) Room 201	Office location: Zoom/BAC 122
Final Exam: Friday, 17 December, 1:30pm-4:00pm	Office hours: By appointment
	Personal Zoom Room: https://pointloma.zoom.us/j/2812041711

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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

FAQ

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What are the *Required Texts* for this course?

1. Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook*. Norton, 2021.

2. Canvas Reader (readings posted on Canvas)**

** 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.

What kind of technology do I need?

In order to be successful using Canvas and participating in the online components of this class, 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.

What am I going to learn in this class?

WRI 1010 is an undergraduate course designed to grow your ability to think critically about various texts, do effective research, and synthesize that research into compelling written work. This class is a writing class; thus, you will write often and diversely, learning how to go from brainstorming a nascent idea to a final product that has academic, social, personal, or professional relevance. As such, you will spend time conducting library research both in and out of class to gather materials so that you can enter the conversation. Further, you will spend time workshopping each other's drafts, which will teach you to not only respond and give outside critique but also to look at your and others' works with an eye for grammar, rigor in researched support, rhetoric, and aesthetic. Finally, good writers are good readers; though we have a set handbook that will cover the mechanics of writing researched papers, we will also read outside work, as necessary, to support our writing and development.

The PLNU catalog states that WRI 1010 is

a comprehensive first-year composition experience in reading, writing, and critical thinking, centered on essay and research writing. [T]he course emphasizes the processes of writing thesis-based manuscripts as an evolving product, with attention to sentence-level conventions and coherence among well-developed paragraphs. Library research and writing the source-based essay are major components of the course. The course emphasizes the process of writing as well as the manuscript as an evolving product.

Caveat for some of you: "A diagnostic exam given in the beginning of the semester will determine **if** the student needs to co-enroll in Writing 0097." If deemed necessary, this dual enrollment is mandatory to pass my class. Most students (once they get over their initial disappointment) find that WRI 0097 is VERY helpful.

The **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)** for this class are as follows:

1. Apply the conventions of the English language and creative skills in various forms of academic writing genres.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the stages of the writing process in academic writing: planning, drafting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing.
3. Evaluate and utilize rhetorical modes of organization in written compositions: narrative, cause/effect, compare/contrast, persuasion, process analysis, and others.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of and apply documentation formats to properly cite research in written compositions.
5. Critically analyze writing to determine point-of-view, tone, purpose, audience, and theme to enable reflection and response in written compositions.

Why do I have to take this class?

The short answer is that you need this class or one like it to graduate. The better answer is that this class will make you a better critical thinker and writer—skills you can take from the classroom into many areas of your life. Being able to read, analyze, synthesize, and write effectively gives you agency 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. 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.

How much time should I plan to spend on this course?

According to PLNU's 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 4-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 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

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

Yes. Here's a brief list!

Tutorial Services (i.e. tutoring, paper editing, review sessions & Academic Coaching) will be offered. Utilizing the online resource [Brainfuse](#) offers PLNU students live, on-demand homework help from Brainfuse-certified tutors in a variety of college subjects. Tutors and students communicate in real-time through the Brainfuse Online Classroom. Whatever you type, draw, or share on the screen, the tutor sees, and vice versa. All your tutoring sessions are recorded for later review. Beginning the second week of the fall 2021 semester PLNU students will be able to additionally access PLNU student tutors for PLNU courses offered. Students in need of help simply [fill out this form](#) to obtain access to Brainfuse (Please note it can be a minimum of 48 hours before you get access to Brainfuse so please plan ahead!) You can contact tutorial services at TutorialServices@pointloma.edu.

The Writers' Studio is located in Bond Academic Center, Room 159.

<https://www.pointloma.edu/opportunities/writers-studio>

The Library has a tremendous amount of information available to you for your research. In addition to traditional books, the library has many databases (which provide electronic articles and source material) that allow you to do specific searches on nearly any topic. Further, Ryan Library is home to many very helpful librarians who can assist you, even virtually. <https://libguides.pointloma.edu/RyanLibrary>

Canvas will become your very close friend, as it will provide you access to the syllabus, course materials, assignment prompts, and it will be the place you turn in your work, etc.

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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This class has a total of 1,000 possible points. Your total points earned at the end of the semester will be evaluated on the following scale:

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

What do I have to do to pass this class (1000 points)?

1. Participate in this course.
2. Do all the assignments.
3. Turn them in on time.
4. Make sure your writing and your work is:
 - a. Thoughtful and considered
 - b. Typed (unless completed face-to-face)
 - c. **Formatted correctly – MLA is the default expectation**
 - d. Free of typos and other proofreading errors

What are the assignments?

Diagnostic Exam (10 points): The Diagnostic Exam will only be offered during the second class meeting. Failure to take this exam will result in automatic placement in the Writers' Studio. No makeup times will be given. Please see description about Writers' Studio.

Reading and Annotation (35 points): I expect you to carefully identify, read, and annotate three texts that you will use in your Annotated Bibliography. How will these be graded? In addition to scanning and uploading an annotated copy of your chosen text, you will complete a graphic organizer for each of your chosen source texts. In addition, the library assignment will count as a double reading assignment – the equivalent of two graphic organizer assignments.

InQuizitive (240 points): InQuizitive for Writers is an interactive online tool that is meant to help develop and sharpen your grasp of basic grammatical concepts. It is meant to be used in conjunction with reading and study of *The Little Seagull Handbook*.

Collaborative Work (80 points): Collaborative work includes your participation in your assigned groups in any in-person or online class event. Because we will be depending on our groups to facilitate deeper learning, this work is highly valued and is awarded points accordingly. You must be an active participant every group assignment to get the full award of these points.

Skill-building Essays (240 points): You will be assigned 6 short papers throughout the course of the class. These papers will cover specific writing skills you will be learning at that time.

#1 How Do I ...?

#2 Who Are We

#3 Is a Hot Dog a Sandwich

#4 Identifying Source Material

#5 Project Proposal

#6 Description Paper

Annotated Bibliography (45 points): Over the semester, you will keep a running bibliography of sources that you have found pertinent to your topic of research. You will then use this information to create a more formal annotated bibliography (in MLA format) containing six (or more) sources, due prior to the submission of your Academic Research Paper. This ongoing project allows you to gather information for your Academic Research Paper and Creative Research Project and will require that you read and annotate sources as the semester progresses. The key to being successful in this assignment is to do a little each week.

Academic Research Paper (150 points): Your final academic paper will be 10 – 12 pages, presenting the reasoning behind your argument about whatever issue you have chosen. For this essay, you will continue to use MLA format, incorporating sources with both quotations and paraphrases. Although the number and type of sources you use will vary, I will expect you to cite at least 10 sources for the paper, or roughly one source per page. You will use the sources you have gathered in your Annotated Bibliography as well as thoughts generated throughout the class.

Creative Research Project (50 points): This project allows you to take the topic you have chosen for your Academic Research Paper and have some fun with it. Since you are now an expert in this topic, you will have the opportunity to share your knowledge with the class. You can choose to (1) create a video that will be shared with the class; (2) present your information to the class; **or** (3) write a creative paper based on your research topic.

Final Exam (100 points): PLNU requires that you demonstrate your skills in essay crafting and grammar mastery in an in-class (online), timed, final exam. Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted at the top of this syllabus. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

Class Participation (50 points): Class participation includes class discussion, coming prepared for class, and participation in any in-person or online class event. For more information, see below.

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

Will I be required to attend and participate in class?

Yes! Part of your grade in this class is for class participation and collaborative work, meaning you must interact with me and the other students as outlined in the course schedule. To earn full marks in both class participation and collaborative work, you must have a good attitude; you must show good faith and consistent effort in group activities; you must read all of the readings; and you must speak out. I often will use class discussion as a place to clarify how to do a certain writing assignment. Thus, taking good notes is important for your success in the class. **Please talk to me and e-mail me about extended illness, emergencies, and/or absence for official university business.**

Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative. You should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. **By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the class.**

Respect in class is a must. This classroom and all its extensions are safe spaces. As we discuss topics that may address potentially emotional topics, we will encounter many different viewpoints within the class. In order to be a good participant in this class, you must be sensitive to your fellow writers. As we share ideas, personal insults and comments will not be tolerated. The best rule to follow: be kind.

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

You must participate to pass the class. However, I understand that emergencies do come up. **Again, please talk to me and e-mail me about extended illness, emergencies, and/or absence for official university business.** 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 class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, 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.

What if I need to turn in an assignment late?

If you need to turn in an assignment late, you may use, for one assignment only, your Late Pass. You may use your Late Pass on any assignment, excepting the Diagnostic Exam, the Academic Research Paper, and the Final Exam. To use your one-time Late Pass, simply notify me by email or in-person at the time the assignment is due. At that time, we will agree upon a new due date together.

It's worth repeating: This is a one-time only pass. You may not use your Late Pass to reschedule the Diagnostic Exam or the Final Exam, and you may not use it on the Academic Research Paper.

What if I turn in a late assignment and I have already used my one-time Late Pass?

If you miss the day an assignment is due, your grade on the assignment will drop a letter grade for every late day (not class days, actual days). For example, if an assignment is due on Wednesday and you submit that assignment on Thursday, the best grade you can receive will be a B. The notable exception to this is if you have made a prior arrangement with me to turn in an assignment on an alternative schedule. Extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis. If you are struggling with an assignment due to illness or another situation, please talk with me **before** that assignment is due.

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

It is perfectly okay (and expected!) to reference other texts (written or visual) in your own writing. However, you must give credit to any ideas, words, phrases, 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.

See Academic Policies for further information.

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

What do I need to know about the Writers' Studio?

You will take a diagnostic essay that will reveal your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, thinker, and communicator on the college entry level. Your exam scores and your professor's discretion will determine whether or not you will benefit the most by enrolling in WRI 0097, which is the Writing Skills Tutorial held in the Writers' Studio. If your scores reveal that you need to enroll in WRI 0097, you will fulfill the requirements by working on your writing skills with trained tutors in the Writers' Studio once a week for 10 weeks beginning the third week of the semester. You will be required to attend an introductory session to the Studio the second week of classes. During that session you will sign-up for a time to work with a writing consultant throughout the semester. The writing assignments you work on in the consultant will be writing assignments assigned in this writing course. Students who work in the Studio benefit greatly from the time spent working alongside a pedagogically trained fellow writer. The fee for the Studio, WRI 0097, is \$150.00. Should you discover you have the privilege of working in the Studio, know that the \$150.00 lab fee replaces a 3 unit, not-for-college credit, \$3,700.00 course your scores would have previously required you to take. **Failure to complete WRI 0097 will result in a failing grade in WRI 1010 and a reentry into the Studio the following semester to complete 10 sessions.**

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS 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 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.

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](#).

PLNU FACE MASK POLICY

Masking

In response to the [CDC's latest guidelines](#) and [California Department of Public Health Recommendations](#), **PLNU has updated our policy for masking.** We will continue to monitor the data to inform a change in policy that aligns with [CDC guidance](#).

Our updated masking policy effective August 4, 2021:

- Individuals on the Point Loma campus, regardless of vaccination status, must be masked indoors
- Individuals on the Point Loma campus who are unvaccinated should remain masked outdoors when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained
- Individuals on the Point Loma campus who are vaccinated may remain unmasked outdoors

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.

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

WRI 1010 Schedule:

WEEK 1: 8/31/2021 – 9/3/2021

Mandatory Attendance:

Wednesday, 9/1 – **Diagnostic Exam** during regular class session (NO ALTERNATIVE DAYS GIVEN)

Read:

Course Syllabus
Canvas Announcements

Prepare:

Purchase *The Little Seagull Handbook* (see text information on page 1 of this syllabus)
Obtain any other relevant supplies

WEEK 2: 9/6/2021 – 9/10/2021

Note: Monday, 9/6/2021 is Labor Day – No Class!!!

Read:

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday at 11:59pm:

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas
Collaborative Work

WEEK 3: 9/13/2021 – 9/17/2021

Read:

Chosen text #1 for your Academic Research Paper
Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday at 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #1: How Do I ...?
Chosen text #1 reading graphic organizer
InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas
Collaborative Work

WEEK 4: 9/20/2021 – 9/24/2021**Read:**

Chosen text #2 for your Academic Research Paper
Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday at 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #2 Who Are We
Chosen text #2 reading graphic organizer
InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas
Collaborative Work

WEEK 5: 9/27/2021 – 10/1/2021**Mandatory Attendance:**

Wednesday, 9/29 and Friday, 10/1 – **Library Research Sessions 1 and 2** during regular class session

Read:

Chosen text #3 for your Academic Research Paper
Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Chosen text #3 reading graphic organizer
Skill-building Essay #3 Is a Hot Dog a Sandwich
Library Research Assignment (Assigned during Ryan Library Research Sessions)
InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas
Collaborative Work

WEEK 6: 10/4/2021 – 10/8/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #4 Identifying Source Material
InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas
Collaborative Work

WEEK 7: 10/11/2021 – 10/15/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Annotated Bibliography

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work

Develop:

Academic Research Paper – Draft 1 (Draft 1 is due 4/23)

WEEK 8: 10/18/2021 – 10/22/2021

Note: Friday, 10/22/2021 is Fall Break – No Class!!!

Read:

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #5 Project Proposal

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work

Develop:

Academic Research Paper – Draft 1 (Draft 1 is due next week!)

WEEK 9: 10/25/2021 – 10/29/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Draft #1 of Academic Research Paper

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work

WEEK 10: 11/1/2021 – 11/5/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Collaborative Work – Peer Workshop

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Develop:

Academic Research Paper – Draft 2 (Draft 2 is due next week!)

WEEK 11: 11/8/2021 – 11/12/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Draft #2 of Academic Research Paper

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work

WEEK 12: 11/15/2021 – 11/19/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Final Academic Research Paper

WEEK 13: 11/22/2021 – 11/26/2021

Note: Wednesday, 11/24/2021 and Friday, 11/26/2021 is Thanksgiving Recess– No Class!!!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Read:

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work

WEEK 14: 11/29/2021 – 12/3/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #6 Description Paper

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Collaborative Work: Creative Research Project

Develop:

Creative Research Project (due next week!)

WEEK 15: 12/6/2021 – 12/10/2021**Read:**

Canvas Announcements

Submit by Friday at 11:59pm:

InQuizitive for Writers: Modules Assigned on Canvas

Creative Research Project

WEEK 16: 12/17/2021 – FINAL EXAM**Mandatory Attendance:**

Friday, 12/17/2021 – **Final Exam** (NO ALTERNATIVE DAYS GIVEN)

Exam will begin at 1:30pm and is time-limited. The exam ends at 4pm.