

## 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.

### Foundational Explorations Mission

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.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory art orientation course dealing with the philosophy of art, language of design, aesthetics, art criticism, and a basic understanding of the Western and Non-Western artistic heritage.

This course is offered on a Quad basis and fulfills the PLNU G.E. requirement for "Seeking Cultural Perspectives." Two credit hours.

### Could this course really matter?

Art is part of our daily lives. We are surrounded by it in the architecture of our environments, the design of websites, the images we hang on our walls and unassuming works embedded in public places. Every day we make aesthetic choices and judgments, from getting dressed to choosing font styles and colors in our writing. *This course is designed to cultivate your visual literacy and its practical application.*

By the end of this course, you can make informed aesthetic decisions and judgments that affect the way you live. You don't need to be an art historian or an artist to appreciate and understand art. Armed with the skills developed in this course, *you will be able to analyze any work of art and derive meaning from it.*

True to PLNU's mission of educating the whole person, this course aims to nurture your intellectual growth as well as your spiritual growth. Together we will explore how art can connect us to the great world around us, to one another and to the majesty of God. I look forward to accompanying you on this journey, learning with and from you and witnessing your communal, intellectual and spiritual growth.

### The Nature of Our Course Content

The subjects and material covered in this course are presented as objectively as possible and reflect the beliefs and practices of humans over thousands of years and many, many cultures. While we may not individually or collectively endorse certain beliefs, practices or representations reflected in art, much can be gained from learning about different perspectives. This course, one of PLNU's Foundational Explorations electives for fulfilling Requirement IV, Exploring Arts and Culture, is intended to develop a "critical appreciation of human expression" in students. If you are concerned with a particular content area, please contact me directly and we will discuss your concerns.

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **Institutional Learning Outcomes**

1. **Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ**  
Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.
2. **Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community**  
Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental and social contexts.
3. **Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith**  
Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

### **Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes**

#### **Context 1: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ (ILO 1)**

- FELO 1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.
- FELO 1b. Oral: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.
- FELO 1c. Information Literacy: 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.
- 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 2: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community (ILO 2)**

- 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 3: Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith (ILO 3)

- 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

Upon completion of this course students will be able to...

1. Identify and discuss a variety of artistic movements and time periods (from prehistoric to modern), styles, techniques, conceptual issues and traditions related to the history of art (includes Non-Western). (ILO 1; FELO 1 & 2)
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design. (ILO 1; FELO 1 & 2)
3. Think and write critically about visual art, making intelligent and informed analyses and interpretations of works of art using appropriate terminology. (ILO 1; FELO 1 & 2)

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### REQUIRED TEXT

- Witte, D. J., Larmann, R. M., & Shields, M. K. (2011). **Gateways to Art: Understanding the Visual Arts**. Thames & Hudson.

You are expected to read your text as it corresponds to the course content. Reading expectations are indicated in the weekly section overviews. You may purchase this book through the PLNU bookstore or online elsewhere.

**Ebook:** An e-book version of this book is available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). Available online or as a download. ISBN: 0500289565 ISBN-13: 9780500289563

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### 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. 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 9-10 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The estimated time expectations for this course are shown below:

<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
Class Discussions	25
Weekly Assignments	35
Quizzes and Surveys	5

Major Project	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

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## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

### Course Structure

The course content and assignments are structured by week. Each week number corresponds with its own module. Each week is approached thematically. **Most weeks are structured as Mondays - Sundays.** The *exception* is the last week, but stay tuned. **Assignments are typically due on Sundays.**

### Grading

**This course includes a variety of assignments:**

- **Formative**, meaning that you are learning material while completing the assignment. The majority of assignments in our course are formative. There may be more assignments in our course than in a face-to-face course due to the fact that this is the only indicator I have to measure your learning. Though these assignments are worth less points individually than the summative assignments are individually, they comprise a significant percentage of your final grade.
- **Summative** - these assess your ability to apply what you have learned. Each module contains a summative assignment that allows you to apply what you have learned. This course is not traditional in the sense that there is no mid-term or final exam.
- **Learning Styles and Media** - one of the great things about online learning is the ability to use technology to cater to a variety of learning styles. This course is intended to be interactive in every aspect and the media with which you are interacting both for learning content and creating it for assignments is extremely varied. During this course, you will be able to learn content through: watching, listening, actively participating, creating, writing and much more. When possible, I have provided you with the opportunity to turn in assignments that reflect your individual style and strengths.

Your grades will be posted in the Canvas Grades area no later than Tuesday evening of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the comments posted in the Grades area as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted within two weeks following the completion of Final Exam. Grades will be based on the following guidelines:

### ASSIGNMENTS      POINTS

Class Discussions	225
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Weekly Assignments	535
Quizzes and Surveys	50
Major Project	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

The points possible for each assignment are listed in the course schedule. I will follow the traditional grading scale and award final grades as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
A+=98-100%	B+=88-89%	C+=78-79%	D+=68-69%	F=59% and lower
A=93-97%	B=83-87%	C=73-77%	D=63-67%	
A-=90-92%	B-=80-82%	C-=70-72%	D-=60-62%	

## Expectations

*What I can expect from you*

**Time Commitment:** This course will require approximately 70-75 hours of your time over the next 5 weeks. If you do not have at least 12 -15 hours per week to devote to this course, please drop the course as soon as possible as there is a wait list of students who wish to enroll. You are expected to log into Canvas Monday through Friday to learn course material, participate in activities and discussions, to submit assignments, and to check your email daily for announcements.

**Group Discussions:** In order to build a sense of community and to provide you with the opportunity to learn from one another, there are discussions included in our course. Please be respectful of one another's ideas and at the same time, challenge one another to grow intellectually.

**Museum/Art Interaction:** An important assignment for this course requires that you visit an art museum in person, or find a mural/street art installation and write a critique based on a work. Please plan accordingly.

**Reading:** You are expected to read your text as it corresponds to the course content.

*What you can expect from me*

You can expect me to work hard to facilitate your learning, be available to help you individually on an as-needed basis, and to be dedicated to your success. I will regularly post announcements for our class and will answer questions concerning assignments and course content. I will make best efforts to respond to your inquiries within 24 hours, M-F. Please be patient and know that I am responding to lots of students.

## Late Work

Given the nature of our course - both online and brief - it is essential that you stay on top of your course work. I do understand that life can be complicated and that there are unpleasant surprises. However, *any work that is turned in late will automatically receive a penalty grade of -10% per day that it is late. Work that is more than 3 days late will not be accepted. Your final project will not be accepted if it is late at all.*

If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from turning in your work on time, we can discuss your situation individually and you will be required to provide me with proper documentation, at my discretion, in order for the work to be accepted. An example of a valid excuse is your hospitalization. An example of an invalid excuse is that you had to work late or that your plane was delayed. Plan in advance so that you are not trying to submit work at the 11th hour when technical problems seem to inevitably arise.

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