Spring 2023

Meeting Days: Monday/Wednesday	**Instructor:** Lynn Walsh
Meeting Times: 1:30-2:45 pm PT	**Phone:** 614-579-7937
Meeting Location: Cabrillo 104	**E-mail:** LWalsh@pointloma.edu
Office Hours: Upon request using this link	

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

It is expected that all students will abide by the health and safety standards set by the university. Here is a link to the most current Health and Safety Guidelines.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Concentrated application of journalism techniques. Stresses off-campus reporting, interviewing and news gathering, journalism responsibility, and ethics. Addresses the news organization as a business and its impact on the reporter.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Exhibit effective research and reporting practices.
2. Display strong interpretive, analytic, and critical thinking skills.
3. Communicate ideas clearly and accurately in forms appropriate to the purpose, medium, and audience.

4. Employ appropriate ethical and legal standards and professional codes in their service to their communities and cultures.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Show an ability to do in-depth reporting that provides understanding.
2. Show ability to become better storytellers.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Associated Press Stylebook

OVERVIEW

The course is designed as a seminar in an effort to take journalism beyond spot-news reporting, and into reporting in-depth. We will study ways to approach stories so that they will go beyond the who, what, when, where, how and why and do some explaining and interpreting what they mean. These ways will include using research techniques and methods in addition to asking someone "What happened?" The topics will address a broad range of issues that are in the public interest

The objective is that students will be able to do in-depth reporting that provides understanding, using main characters to illustrate issues. This is a class in storytelling. We will read and we will write. This class focuses on narrative: how to tell a true story accurately, ethically, and memorably. You'll leave the class with an understanding that strong narrative journalism requires the twin tracks of exhaustive reporting *and* skillful storytelling.

There will be weekly current events quizzes and weekly stylebook quizzes. There will be frequent reading/reaction assignments from the books above.

But the big assignments will be four major stories, approximately one every three weeks. The stories must come from broad topic areas that will be your beat for the semester.

Possible beat ideas include an organization (such as ASB, an academic department, a company, a team, the Rescue Mission) a region (such as Ocean Beach) an entity (city government, the art community) a condition (the pandemic, conspiracy theories) an issue (immigration, pollution, megachurches, homelessness, protest movements).

Topics we will cover in class will include:

- How to distinguish Topic from Story—how to think
- Narrative defined

- The importance of reporting and its relationship to strong narrative journalism
- How to "see" stories everywhere
- Ethics
- Revision
- Organizational strategies

Sometimes we'll start class with a micro-lecture, sometimes we'll discuss the reading assignment, sometimes we'll focus entirely on workshop. Some of the topics we'll cover: What makes a story great? What makes a story a *story*? What elements does great narrative require? How does reporting for narrative differ from the reporting one might do for, say, a daily news story or feature? What choices—stylistic, ethical, etc.—must the longform journalist make? What does it mean to write with "voice"? Who is the audience? Does it matter?

In addition, we will discuss techniques and methods for attaining first jobs and internships.

You are expected to read at least one mainstream news site, online, on paper (!) or otherwise, every day and bring in examples of applicable stories for class discussion.

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 3 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 7.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.Final grades will be posted within one week of the end of the class. Grades will be based on the following:

GRADE % SCALE:

A=90-100
B-=80-89
C=70-79
D=60-69
F=0-59

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 Links to an

[external site.](#)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.

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 Links to an external site..

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