
 POINT ¹⁹  LOMA ⁰² NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	Journalism
	<u>JRN 3040 Media Ethics & Law 1</u> 3 Semester Units
Fall 2023	

Meeting days: Tue/Thu	Instructor title and name: Craig Harris, M.S.
Meeting times: 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Phone: 619-539-9738 or 602-509-3613
Meeting location: Bond Academic Center (BAC) 155	Email: charris@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: n/a	Office hours: by Appointment

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of major ethical journalistic philosophies, codes, current practices, and applicable laws. Interaction with professionals and discussions of ethical problems. Stresses responsible, fair, accurate journalism.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this semester, students shall be able to:

- discuss and debate the freedoms and responsibilities of mass media in society.

- identify legal and ethical problems in the media and the systems of shared values and social practices that frame them.
- demonstrate in case studies a systematic approach to making ethical decisions based on sound principles and reasoned analysis.
- formulate and defend ethical standards by which one can operate with Christian integrity as a media practitioner.

Multimedia Journalism Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

1. Students will exhibit effective research and reporting practices including the creation (Synthesis) and editing (Application) of a news story based on accepted industry standards and values. [Written Communication, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking]
2. Students will display strong interpretive (Application) analytic (Analysis), and critical thinking skills by writing (Synthesis) news copy clearly and accurately, demonstrating quantitative and qualitative reasoning in forms appropriate to the purpose, medium, and audience. [Written Communication, Information Literacy, Quantitative Reasoning/Literacy]
3. Students will identify (Knowledge) and apply (Application) appropriate ethical and legal standards in their service to their communities and cultures. [Critical Thinking]
4. Employ (Application) delivery skills appropriate to various news performance situations. [Written Communication, Oral Communication]
5. The student will be able to describe (Knowledge) how technologies shape the way people perceive and interact with the world and apply (Application) these digital tools and technologies appropriately for the communications professions in which they work.

[Written Communication, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Quantitative Reasoning]=

The terms inside the brackets indicate the relationship of the learning outcome to WASC's five Core Competencies: Written Communication, Oral Communication, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Quantitative Reasoning. WASC is the organization through which PLNU receives accreditation.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Media Ethics at Work: True Stories from Young Professionals

Associated Press Stylebook (latest edition)

OPTIONAL: When Words Collide (Lauren Kessler and Duncan McDonald - order online)

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 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This course is graded using the following categories: participation, assignments, and demonstration of skills. Grades will be based on the following:

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	

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

JRN3040 does not have a final exam.

CONTENT WARNING

We acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In JRN 3040, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to us or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of ethical considerations in journalism, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will not be graded and will result in a zero score in the grade book. Please check CANVAS for all updated assignments due dates.

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 Student Life and Formation](#).

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.

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

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 or 619-849-2533). 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.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at [Student Life and Formation](#).

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

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.

COURSE CALENDAR (TENTATIVE - CHANGES WILL APPEAR ON CANVAS)

Week	Topic	Graded Content
1 Aug. 29/31	<i>What is Free Speech?</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 1
2 Sept. 5/7	<i>Defamation and the Law</i>	AP Quiz
3 Sept. 12/14	<i>How Free Speech and Defamation Work in Practice</i> <i>Guest Speaker: Stephanie Grisham</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 2
4 Sept. 19/22	<i>Copyright Laws and Free Speech</i>	AP Quiz
5 Sept. 26/28	<i>Privacy Issues Related to Free Speech</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 3
6 Oct. 3/5	<i>The Clery Act and FERPA</i> <i>Guest Lecturers: Coronado News Staff</i>	AP Quiz
7 Oct. 10/12	<i>Tools for Ethical Decision Making</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 4
8 Oct. 17/19	<i>Moral Development and Ethics</i> <i>NO CLASS OCT 19 (FALL BREAK)</i>	AP Quiz
9 Oct. 24/26	<i>Sensitivity and Social Media: Ethical Issues</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 5
10 Oct. 31 & Nov. 2	<i>White Noise and Public Relations</i> <i>NO CLASS on Oct 31 (online module)</i>	AP Quiz
11 Nov. 7/9	<i>Ethics in Crime Reporting</i>	AP Quiz
12 Nov. 14/16	<i>Ethical Violations and Colleagues</i>	AP Quiz Writing Assignment 6
13 Nov. 21/23	<i>Vetting Sources for Accuracy and Truth in Reporting</i> <i>NO CLASS NOV 23 (THANKSGIVING BREAK)</i>	AP Quiz

14 Nov. 28/30	<i>Creating Space for the Voiceless</i>	AP Quiz
15 Dec. 5/7	<i>Final Project Presentations</i>	Final Project DUE WED DEC 13 AT 10 PM

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Assignment Type	Points	Number	Total Points
Attendance & Participation	10 per week	15	150
AP Style Quizzes	12	12	144
Writing Assignments	30	6	180
Final Project: Legal & Ethical Guide	100	1	100
TOTAL			574

Attendance & Participation: Each session of this course will be interactive; therefore, in-person participation is encouraged. Five points per week are for attendance and five points are for your level of participation. If you miss a class, you need to do extra credit work to make up the participation points. Attendance points cannot be made up unless it is a university-sponsored event.

AP Style Quizzes: Quizzes cover AP style issues, which are paramount for journalists. These are open book and available on Canvas.

Final Project Legal and Ethical Guide: In small groups, students will create and defend an ethics code and guide for PLNU student media outlets. The projects will be presented in class during the final week of the course (prior to finals) and the written summary is due during finals week.