

Spring 2024	
<b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesdays, Thursdays	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Nathan Gibbs Associate Professor of Media Communication
<b>Meeting times:</b> 3 – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Office Phone:</b> (619) 849-2415
<b>Meeting location:</b> Bond Academic Center 156	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nathangibbs@pointloma.edu">nathangibbs@pointloma.edu</a>
<b>Final Exam:</b> May 2, 4:30 - 7 p.m.	<b>Office location and hours:</b> Cabrillo 205 MWF 9:30 – 12:30 p.m. and 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.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A critical approach to interpreting media messages grounded in the study of how messages are constructed, how media industries function, and how communication theory, research, and media ethics explain media impact on society. Emphasis is placed on making informed choices as a media consumer and considering the impact of media from a Christian perspective.

## PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Outcome	Assessment
Understand mass media economics and systems.	Reading Notes
Understand how to distinguish among information sources and evaluate their reliability to become more informed consumers of all forms of media.	Reading Notes Reflection Papers
Understand the journalistic process, the challenges journalists face, the impacts of journalism in democratic society, and the relationships between journalists and the public they serve.	Reading Notes Global News Analysis
Understand the workings of state and local governments, including how state and local government decision-making affects our daily lives, how news coverage and other media content influences these decisions and how citizens can engage to influence change.	Reading Notes Class Discussion Paper Participation

Apply a biblical-Christian worldview and faith perspective to media analysis, critique, and the production of media messages.	Author Presentation Reflection Papers Class Discussion Paper
Understand and apply media literacy analysis knowledge and skills in the four different dimensions of media literacy: Cognitive / Background-Factual, Emotional, Aesthetic, Moral-Ethical-Spiritual.	Participation Final Exam

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- *Media Literacy in Action: Questioning the Media*, 2021. Hobbs..
- *Popular Culture: A User's Guide*, 2017. O'Brien, Szeman.

## 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 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

The following grading scale represents the minimum total percentage required to receive a given final grade:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

## FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

## CONTENT WARNING

I 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 this course, 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 me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are

discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of Media Communication, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

## **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the deadline associated with each assignment in Canvas. Some assignments may be completed late for reduced credit. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

## **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 your professor or the [Office of Spiritual 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](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.

## **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](http://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](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://pointloma.edu/title-ix).

## **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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

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

## **LOMA WRITING CENTER**

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you’re in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

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

See Canvas for deadlines and assignment details.

*Participation (300 points):* Each week, 20 points will be given for a combination of attendance, group participation and class discussion. Participation points will collectively make up 30% of the final grade.

*Reading & Film Notes (250 points):* Students will produce reading notes as they engage each chapter of Media Literacy in Action: Questioning the Media and Popular Culture: A User's Guide. Some weeks will include notes from viewing specific films. Completed submissions will be assessed for a total of 25% of the final grade.

*Final Exam (100 points):* The final exam will prompt students to respond to questions that take into account the content of the course including relevant examples from the lectures, in-class examples, readings and films. The final exam will be assessed for a total of 10% of the final grade.

*Global News Analysis (100 points):* Four analyses will be completed in response to global news coverage of particular stories. These analyses will be assessed for a total of 10% of the final grade.

*Class Discussion Paper (100 points):* Students will work in teams to produce a written paper that summarizes the important details of an assigned text including critical assessment of key themes, and guide the class in discussion. The written paper and class discussion will be assessed for a total of 10% of the final grade.

*Reflection Papers (100 points):* Every two weeks, students will write a reflection on a topic of interest from materia covered in readings, assignments and class sessions from the previous two weeks. These eight reflections will be assessed for a collective total of 10% of the final grade.

*Author Presentation (50 points):* Students will present on featured authors from chapters in Media Literacy in Action: Questioning the Media. Presentations will be assessed for a total of 5% of the final grade.