

**Point Loma
Nazarene University**

Communication Studies Department

TRE1001 -1 Introduction to Theater Section 1

2 Units

Spring 2024

January 8 - April 26

Meeting Days: Tuesdays

Meeting Times: 1:30pm - 3:20pm

Meeting Location: Solomon Theatre

Final Exam: (Day/Time): Tuesday, April 30th, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm in Salomon Theatre

Instructor: Professor Caryl Lipnick, MBA

Email: clipnick@pointloma.edu

Phone: 619.848.2605

Office Location and 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

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices of the theatre arts, and an exploration of how theatre has powerfully impacted human societies from the beginning of recorded history. We will employ lectures, applied reading, discussion and participatory activities including group projects such as Scenefest. Required attendance of a live local theatrical performance is required to meet the goals of this course.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

1. Identify the role of theatre during major historical periods and social movements. (FELO 1a, 1d, 2b)
 2. Analyze the work of the various practitioners who collaborate in the creation of theatre (FELO 1a, 1d, 2b)
 3. Articulate an informed opinion to thoughtfully and critically evaluate stage performances (FELO 1a, 1d, 2b)
 4. Connect with your local theatre community to engage in culturally enriching activities. (FELO 2a, 2b)
 5. Plan and implement a creative project with others (FELO 1a, 1b, 1d, 2a, 2b)
-

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes (FELO)

- FELO 1a. Written: You will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.
 - FELO 1d. Critical Thinking : You will examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions
 - FELO 2a. You will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal wellbeing.
 - FELO 2b. You will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.
-

Required Texts and Study Resources

[Cohen, R., Sherman, D., and Liu Carriger, M \(2023\). *Theatre Brief, 13e*. McGraw-Hill.](#)

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*

Molière. *Tartuffe*.

Course Procedures and Requirements:

- **Participation and Attendance** is critical. Our class meets in person, once a week, for 2 hours. You are expected to be in class the entire time. Besides lecture, you will participate in groups and as a class to better understand the Elements of Theatre.
- **Rubrics** are included with most Discussions, Assignments and Group Projects. For the best grade, you should meet the parameters of what is on Canvas as well as the highest level of the rubric.
- **Exams & Quizzes** help you come prepared to class and to retain what is being read and studied.
 - Quizzes help you keep up on the readings and to provide you with sample test questions. Quizzes are time-sensitive and sometimes given in class on Tuesdays, other times on Wednesdays.
 - Your Final exam is taken from the quizzes. Questions are primarily multiple choice, several short answer, and one short essay prompt. Staying up on your reading and reviewing the text will help prepare you for the Final.
- **Discussions** offer opportunities to express your opinions and interact with others to hear what they think; some students consider this one of their favorite aspects of the course.
 - 1. An initial post on your response to the prompt
 - 2. Two responses to fellow students
 - 3. AND a follow-up to someone else's response to you.
- **Assignments** will support your learning various integral elements of Theatre.
 - **Critiques:** Each student will analyze *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, and *Tartuffe* by Moliere in a written historical/critical or rhetorical essay. Prompts will be posted on Canvas where you will write your responses.
 - **Playwriting:** Each student will learn about how to tell a story through a script format
 - **Critical Stage Review:** You will be responsible for one written review of a live theatre production. You will need approval from your Professor for the production you choose to attend. Your choice must be submitted in a timely manner, per Canvas calendar. **Lack of a Critical Stage Review will result in failure of the course.**
- **Group Projects** are a major part of this course. You will work together, both in class and outside of class, to put into practice the theatre crafts such as directors, designers, playwrights, and actors. The culmination of the group projects is Scenefest.
- **Scenefest:** Each student will participate in the staging and presentation of an original playlet. This will be based on a fairy tale, given a twist, and include elements of tragedy and farce as studied in *Hamlet* and *Tartuffe*. Given the obvious restraints of this being greatly imaginative, you will incorporate all the components of the process as creatively as you can as a group; this will require some time commitment outside of class. Therefore, cooperation with the ensemble will be considered in grading. **Lack of participation in Scenefest will result in failure of the course.**

- **Surveys** are opportunities for students to give their input to the course and add to their accumulation of points.
- **Collaboration** is important; be timely and come to class with anticipation!
 - Your class time is spent in lecture, group discussion and active workshops.
 - Though the class structure is primarily oriented toward lecture, I strongly encourage questions, ideas, and discussions.
 - Take an active role in the process and you will get far more from the experience. I move fairly quickly.
 - If you are not adept at note-taking, I have no problem with small recording devices.
 - Power Points are included each week, but I do not post the lectures online, nor make them available anywhere outside class.
 - **All** assignments, reading, discussions, activities and attendance in this course lead up to success in the Cumulative Project of Scenefest and the Final Exam.
- **Policies:**
 - **Extra Credit or "Curves":** There is NO extra credit in this course, nor any additional work that can augment your grade, so please don't write a flattering email asking for this kind of accommodation. My policy on final grade rounding is: if you are within 0.5% of the next grade, I round up. Therefore, 89.55 becomes an A-; 89.48 remains a B+. Please refer to this BEFORE you email me at the end of the semester.
 - **Exceptions: an email from the Provost's office is required for exceptions to any of the following policies as stated in this course:**
 -
 - Quizzes
 - Discussions
 - Critical Stage Review
 - Scenefest

Assessment and Grading

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing the number of points you earn by the total number of points at the end of the semester. Assignments and points may be changed at the discretion of the Professor.

Here are the categories of assessment (see Canvas for the points possible):

Assessment

Assessment Parameters

Approximate points available are as follows:	
Attendance and Participation	You are expected to physically arrive in a timely manner and fully participate in class each week.
Quizzes and Final Exam	Most weeks you will complete a brief quiz based on your textbook readings, worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester there is a Final exam worth 100 points.
Discussions	You will participate in discussion boards with your group in which you share and develop your ideas and understanding about key topics on Theatre. Each is worth 20 total points if all aspects are met: initial post, 2 responses to other's posts, and a response to your original post.
Assignments	You will complete various assignments as well as several major assignments in this course. These include but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading the textbook <i>Theatre: Brief, 13e</i>, and scripts of <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Tartuffe</i> 2. Analyses of the elements of Tragedy and Farce
Group Projects	You will work together with others to plan, write and ultimately execute Scenefest, a playlet integrating the crafts of theater artists such as directors, designers, playwrights, and actors. You will integrate elements of tragedy and farce into your submission.
Scenefest	Presentation of the cumulative group project; submission of script and performance of playlet. Performance will be under 15 minutes. Scenefest is worth 350 points.
Live Theatre Review	Attendance and critical review paper of a live theatre review performance. Two pages, MLA format. Live Theatre Review is worth 100 points.
Reflection Paper	This is an essay on how this course has influenced your outlook on theatre, leading to new understanding and personal growth. Two pages, MLA format. Final Reflection Paper is worth 100 points.
Surveys	You will complete several required check-ins leading up to your live theatre attendance as well as several PLNU surveys.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

A <i>Exceptional Scholarship</i>	B <i>Superior Scholarship</i>	C <i>Average Scholarship</i>	D <i>Passing Grade</i>	F <i>Failing Grade</i>
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	

Grades Earned:

A: Indicates excellent work that reflects thinking, creativity, individuality, and a very high level of intellectual attainment.

B: Indicates good work that reflects a thorough understanding of theory but is lacking in individual thinking and creativity.

C: Indicates work that reflects a satisfactory completion of the assignment as directed, but is lacking in thoroughness, individual thinking, and creativity.

D: Indicates work that reflects a lack of understanding of theory and/or fails to fulfill the assigned tasks.

F: Indicates work that reflects an inability or unwillingness to do the assigned task.

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 [Class 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. The Final Exam for this course is Tuesday, April 30th, 1:30-4:00pm in Salomon Theatre.

Incomplete and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in when they are due. You must contact your Professor if an extension is requested. \ Assignments turned in late will receive a 10% penalty per day.

Reading response assignments, such as discussions on canvas or quizzes on the readings, will be graded based on reasonable effort, and will not be accepted for credit if submitted late.

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) Syllabus Policy

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

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 619-849-2486). 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.

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 the appropriate grade for their work and participation. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted. Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

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](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 help and support are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is 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 the [Title IX Office | Get Help Now](#)

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](#).

Important Assignments At-A-Glance:

These assignments and dates may be changed at the discretion of the Professor.

- **Week 13 Live Theatre Review DUE**
- **Week 14 Scenefest DUE**
- **Week 14 Final Paper: Reflection on Theatre DUE**
- **Week 15 Final Exam in Room 104 Fermanian Hall**

Updated 4/9/24

