

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 Edit



Department of Communication
Studies

COM 2065: Introduction to Research
in Communication

3 Units

Summer 2024 | Session I

Fully Online - Asynchronous

May 6 - June 7

Meeting Days/Times: Online Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Birdsell

Meeting Location: Online

Email: jebirdse@pointloma.edu
(<mailto:jebirdse@pointloma.edu>)

Phone: 619-849-3370

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 cultures.

COURSE DESCRIPTION



This course introduces students to disciplinary expectations for research in communication, including source evaluation and citation, and equips them to review literature, select methods, and propose ethical research in communication from qualitative and quantitative perspectives.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful completion of the course should enable you to:

1. Recognize methods used in communication research
2. Extract the most salient points from disciplinary research articles
3. Select appropriate research methods for a variety of hypotheses or research questions
4. “Speak the language” of communication research methods
5. Cite scholarly research using discipline-appropriate style

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a required course for all majors in the Department of Communication Studies, please visit [the curriculum maps](http://assessment.pointloma.edu/academic-assessment/department-of-communication-theatre/curriculum-maps/) (<http://assessment.pointloma.edu/academic-assessment/department-of-communication-theatre/curriculum-maps/>) to identify which PLOs this class addresses for your major.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Curnalia, R. M. L. & Ferris, A. L. (2014). *CSI: A step-by-step guide to writing your literature review in communication studies*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Davis, C. S. & Lachlan, K. L. (2017). *Straight Talk about Communication Research Methods* (3rd ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

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 5 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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

During the semester, you will be responsible for the following written assignments. Detailed instructions are available in the Canvas modules.

Course Assignments

Assignment Type	Weight
Online Quizzes (5 pts. each)	5%
Weekly Online Activities	25%
Concept Reports	20%
Project Pitch Presentation	15%



Literature Review & Methods Proposal	35%
Total	100%

ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

All assignments must be typed (double-spaced, 8.5" x 11" paper, one-side, 225-250 wpp, 1" margins, 12pt font, Times New Roman or Courier typeface) unless otherwise instructed. Use the APA style guide where necessary (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> for formatting assistance). The most likely time for your computer/internet connection to crash is minutes before an assignment is due. Please plan ahead.

GRADING

Regardless of your prior experiences with grading, I am insistent that a "C" is considered "average" or acceptable work, grades of "B" and "A" are awarded for above average and exceptional work respectively. Normally, those students receiving A's represent the top 10 - 25% of a class.

Feedback on assignments will be provided using the "Annotated Comments" feature in Canvas. Please follow [these instructions](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-view-annotation-feedback-comments-from-my-instructor/ta-p/523) [↗ \(https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-view-annotation-feedback-comments-from-my-instructor/ta-p/523\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-view-annotation-feedback-comments-from-my-instructor/ta-p/523) to access them.

There is a 24-7 rule in this class: you must wait at least 24 hours after receiving a grade to discuss it, and no later than 7 days. Any discussion of grades must occur outside of class time. I will gladly talk about assignments (non-grade issues) past the 7-day period. To avoid confusion, you must (a) document the error in writing, (b) state why you think it is an error (based on the syllabus (course expectations, grading policies, etc.) and specific assignment details.), and (c) suggest what you think should be done to rectify the error (in cases where this is not obvious). These matters will be dealt with promptly. (If an error had been made which benefits you, please accept it as a "gift" which does not need to be reported.)

Grading Distribution

Standard 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	

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 \(https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness/research/disclosures\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness/research/disclosures) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.



INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. Assignments turned in past due will be accepted but the grade will be reduced by 10% as soon as the assignment is tardy and another 10% for every 24 hours after that.

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 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=2919#Academic_Honesty\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=2919#Academic_Honesty) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

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 \(mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu\)](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for 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 ensure 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 drop date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS

1. **In-Person:** Course meetings are face-to-face with no more than 25% online delivery.



2. **Online:** Coursework is completed 100% online and asynchronously.
3. **Online Synchronous:** Coursework is completed 100% online with required weekly online class meetings.
4. **Hybrid:** Courses that meet face-to-face with required online components.

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](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/>) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

ASYNCHRONOUS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION DEFINITION

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

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 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 ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware that PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. 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

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349) (<https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349>) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

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


















ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SYLLABUS POLICY





















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


























ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE






















Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon May 6, 2024	 Academic Honesty Verification Statement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031904) 	due by 11:59pm
	 First Day Discussion: Syllabus "Quiz" (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031920) 	due by 11:59pm
	 First Day: Welcome to the Course	to do: 11:59pm
	 Week 1 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
	 First Day Discussion: Getting Acquainted (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031921) 	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 7, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 1 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031909) 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 1 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Wed May 8, 2024	 CSI Discussion 1 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031930) 	due by 11:57pm
	 Library Research Practice (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031942) 	due by 11:57pm
	 CSI Step 1 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 Video Lecture: Library Research	to do: 11:59pm
Thu May 9, 2024	 CSI Discussion 2 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031929) 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 3 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031905) 	due by 11:59pm
	 CSI Step 2 Video Lecture	to do: 

























Date	Details	Due
	 Straight Talk Chapter 3	to do: 11:59pm
	 APA Citation Practice https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031931 	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 10, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 2 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031919 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 2 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Sun May 12, 2024	 WK 1-Participation Grade https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033354 	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 13, 2024	 Week 2 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
	 Collaborative Work: Paradigms https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031938 	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 14, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 4 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031914 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 4 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 Video Lecture: Deconstructing an Article	to do: 11:59pm
	 CSI Discussion 3 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031928 	due by 11:57pm
Wed May 15, 2024	 CSI Discussion 4 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031927 	due by 11:57pm
	 CSI Steps 3 and 4 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 Research Ethics https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031947 	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 16, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 5 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031912 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 5 Video Lecture	to do: 

Date	Details	Due
Fri May 17, 2024	 Citation and Annotation https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031935 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 6 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031907 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 6 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Sun May 19, 2024	 WK 2-Participation Grade https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033355 	due by 11:59pm
	 Collaborative Work: Concepts and Definitions (Groups) https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031937 	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 20, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 7 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031915 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 7 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 Week 3 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Tue May 21, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 8 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031910 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 8 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Wed May 22, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 9 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031913 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 9 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 Citation and Annotation 2 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031936 	due by 11:59pm
	 Collaborative Work: Scale Development (Groups) https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031940 	due by 11:59pm
	 Research "Logics"	to do: 11:59pm


















Date	Details	Due
Thu May 23, 2024	 Discussion: WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS SURVEY? https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031922 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 10 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031911 	due by 11:59pm
	 ACADEMIC ARTICLE EXAMPLE: Organizational Communication in Emergencies: Using Multiple Channels and Sources to Combat Noise and Capture Attention	to do: 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 10 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Fri May 24, 2024	 References Due https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031946 	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 26, 2024	 WK 3-Participation Grade https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033356 	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 28, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 11 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031918 	due by 11:59pm
	 Week 4 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
	 Assignment: Concept Reports https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031932 	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 29, 2024	 Thwarting Validity Threats using Solomon 4 Group Design https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031923 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 12 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031917 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 12 Video Lecture  ACADEMIC ARTICLE EXAMPLE: Experiment The Priming Effects of Avatars in Virtual Settings	to do: 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Thu May 30, 2024	 Lit Review Outline https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031943 	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 30, 2024	 CSI Discussion 5 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031926 	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 30, 2024	 CSI Step5 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Thu May 30, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 13 Content	to do: 11:59pm
Fri May 31, 2024	 Method Outline https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031944 	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 31, 2024	 Pick the Statistic "Quiz" https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031945 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 2, 2024	 WK 4-Participation Grade https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033357 	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 3, 2024	 CSI Discussion 6 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031925 	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 3, 2024	 CSI Discussion 7 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031924 	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 3, 2024	 CSI Steps 6 and 7 Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Jun 3, 2024	 Week 5 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jun 4, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 14 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031908 	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 4, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 14 Guest Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Wed Jun 5, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 15 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031916 	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 5, 2024	 Collaborative Work: Peer Review (Group)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
	https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031939 	
	 Straight Talk Chapter 15 Guest Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
Thu Jun 6, 2024	 Straight Talk Chapter 16 https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031906 	due by 11:59pm
	 Straight Talk Chapter 16 Guest Video Lecture	to do: 11:59pm
	 End-of-Course Evaluation https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031941 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 7, 2024	 Assignment: Literature Review and Methods Proposal https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031933 	due by 11:59pm
	 Assignment: Project "Pitch" https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1031934 	due by 11:59pm
	 CITI Training Completion Certificate https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033353 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 9, 2024	 WK 5-Participation Grade https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/73394/assignments/1033358 	due by 11:59pm

