



COM 4085 Communication, Values and Society

Communication Studies Department

Fall 2024 ◊ 2 Units ◊ MW 11:00 am-11:55 pm ◊ IPPS/Women's Study Meeting Room

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Office hours: Tue/Thurs 1-2; Upon request

PLNU Mission

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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Senior seminar series focused on value-driven approaches to communication, applying a Christian perspective to real world contexts. Required of all majors in the department.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Formulate an understanding of the purposes of Christian communication.
2. Recognize the responsibility we have to use our communication skills to engage and transform human culture.
3. Distinguish the scope of one's Christian perspective as it relates to human communication.
4. Appraise values and theory related to communication in a Christian context.

Required Texts

Online Readings

Os Guinness, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2018).

Assessment and Grading

Below you will find the assignments for the semester. Assignments and speeches will have grading rubrics that you are welcome to view at any time. 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. Here are the categories of assessment:

I. Timeline and Intro Speech (55 points)

II. Reflections on *The Call*: Students will complete a five-part reflection on material from the book. Each part will be listed in Canvas with due dates. (15 points each)

III. Speeches (100 points each)

Students will prepare and deliver one speech in each module.

IV. Speech Outlines (15 points each)

Students will submit a hard copy of their speech outline before presenting.

V. Written Assignments (Points vary)

Students will submit a variety of writing assignments in each module.

V. Participation (Points vary)

Students will submit research assignments, presentations, article reviews, collaborative work and personal reflection journals.

Grade Scale

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	

A- = 90-92%; A = 93-100: Excellent (*exceptional, superlative presentations, engaged in class lecture and discussion, attendance, posture, interest, etc. Comprehensive excellence is needed for a superlative grade in this course.*)

B- = 80-82%; B = 83-87%; B+ = 88-89%: Above average

C- = 70-72%; C = 73-77%; C+ = 78-79%: Average (*mediocre, passable, fair, midpoint between extremes of excellence and failure.*)

D- = 60-62%; D = 63-67%; D+ = 68-69%: Below average

F = 59% and below: Failure (*omission or lack of satisfactory performance of action or task, inadequate, impassable, etc.*)

Method of Instruction

The course is taught through lecture, discussion, and class activities all designed to help you develop critical thinking abilities as you prepare for life after Loma. Lectures will often introduce material beyond that which is covered in readings and will assume information supplied in the course readings. It is your responsibility to come to class ready to think, challenge, analyze, and apply the material covered. Additional norms include:

1. Students are expected to attend class and be on time.
2. In the event of absence students seek missed information/notes from classmates and/or Canvas.
3. PLNU allows up to 25% of course work to be completed in Canvas and this section may use Canvas for much of the course work required. It has your assignments listed with due dates set and all the materials needed for the course beyond the textbook so be sure to set your Canvas user preference to get daily reminders for assignments due.
4. All written work must be typed, and attention should be paid to form (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, APA formatting and general appearance) as well as content. Late work will receive an automatic point deduction.
5. Integrity is of great importance. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of "F" for the project and possibly the course. See university notifications below for specifics.
6. Please join me in selecting "Do not Disturb" on your mobile device(s) and leaving phones off the desk/table you are working at. Recording of lectures must be discussed with the professor in advance.
7. Please check your PLNU email account daily. This is the way that I will most frequently communicate with you outside of class, and it's also the way the university distributes important information. I am committed to responding to emails within 24 hours (and on Mondays for emails sent to me Fri-Sun)
8. The subject librarian for Communication, Denise Nelson, is available to help you with planning and organizing your research, as well as locating resources for your class assignments. She can be reached at dnelson@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2477.
9. We will abide by the university notifications listed below.
10. This syllabus serves as the contract between the students and professor. Your continued enrollment in the course serves as agreement to abide by the policies and information set forth here. Please do not expect exceptions to be made for you.

Course Schedule

Please note: Due to the nature of this course, the schedule is subject to change. All changes will be posted on Canvas and announced in class. Rest assured, I will not spring any new assignments or work on you at the last minute.

Date	In-Class Plan	Asynchronous Work
COMMUNICATION MODULE		
Week of Sept 3	Course Introduction Christian perspective on communication	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapter 1 Prep: <i>Communicating for Life</i> 3-2-1 Seminar
Week of Sept 9	Christian perspective on communication: Calling 3-2-1 Seminar (ch 1)	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapter 2; <i>The Call</i> -Intro, chapters 1-2 Design: Timeline Submit: Timeline Assignment Prep: <i>Communicating for Life</i> 3-2-1 Seminar
Week of Sept 16	Timeline Presentations 3-2-1 Seminar (ch 2)	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapter 3; <i>The Call</i> ch 3-5 Submit: <i>The Call Reflection</i> Part I (Submit on Canvas) Prep: <i>Communicating for Life</i> 3-2-1 Seminar
Week of Sept 23	3-2-1 Seminars (chs 3, 4, 6)	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapters 4 & 6; <i>The Call</i> chapters -5-6 Write: Vision Statement (see handout) Submit: Vision Statement (by deadline-no exceptions) Prep: <i>Communicating for Life</i> 3-2-1 Seminar
Week of Sept 30	3-2-1 Seminars (chs 7, 10) No class 9/30	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapters 7 & 10; Review <i>The Call</i> chapters 3-5 Submit: <i>The Call Reflection</i> Part II (Submit on Canvas) Prep: <i>Communicating for Life</i> 3-2-1 Seminar
Week of Oct 7	3-2-1 Seminar (chs 11, 12) Communication Module Exam	Read & take notes: Schultze-chapters 11 & 12; <i>The Call</i> chapters 7-9 Prepare for Exam Submit: <i>The Call Reflection</i> Part III
Week of Oct 14	Calling, Vocation & the Future	Read & take notes: <i>The Call</i> chapters 10-12 & Vocation Essay Prep: Resume and LinkedIn/Website

VALUES MODULE		
Week of Oct 21	Values: Happiness	Read Brooks chapter 1 (on Canvas); <i>The Call</i> chapters 13-14 Complete: inventory Submit: Happiness assignment; Resume and LinkedIn/Website
Week of Oct 28	Career Services Week World Safe for Diversity	Read; <i>The Call</i> chapters 15-17 Revise: Resume and LinkedIn/Website
Week of Nov 4	Values: Humility Humility Assignment No Class 10/28	Read: Murray, <i>Humility</i> Submit: <i>The Call</i> Reflection Part IV; Values Presentation Outline Practice: Values Presentation
Week of Nov 11	Values Presentation	Read <i>The Call</i> ch 18-21
SOCIETY MODULE		
Week of Nov 18	Society: Civility & Invitational Rhetoric Ask the Ethicist	Read <i>The Call</i> ch 22-26
Week of Nov 25	Society: Media No class 11/27	Complete civility assignment Work on final presentation Submit: <i>The Call</i> Reflection Part V
Week of Dec 2	Society: Wrap Up	Complete society assignment Work on final presentation
Week of Dec 9	Final Presentations	
Monday, Dec 16 10:30 am Finals Week	Final Presentations	

University Notifications

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 COM 4085, 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. I don't anticipate troubling content, but if you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, 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 communication and my goal is to support you throughout your learning in this course.

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.

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 you 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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined 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 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 in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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 pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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.

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.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu