



School of Theology & Christian Ministry

PHL 611 Christian Ethics

3 Units

Fall, 2017

October 22-December 14, 2018

Meeting days: November 12-16, 2018	Instructor title and name: Sam Powell
Meeting times: M, 12-5; T-Th, 8-5, F, 8-12	Phone: 619.849.2335
Meeting location: Smee, 100	E-mail: spowell@pointloma.edu
	Office location and hours: The Wesleyan Center
Additional info: Online course requirements before and after intensive posted on Canvas.	Additional info:

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 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

This course studies major Christian ethical theories and view of the moral life. It also examines contemporary moral issues such as justice, war, peace, work, and family

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Ability to apply theological and philosophical ethics to nurture faithful living in the Christian community
- Ability to discern and make ethical decisions in the midst of a complex and/or paradoxical context within a Wesleyan framework
- Ability to practice a moral pastoral leadership, informed by philosophical and theological ethics

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 three-unit class delivered over nine weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their course work. The time expectations for this course are shown below:

Assignments

Total Hours

Required Reading	60
Online Discussion	15
Writing Reflection Papers	20
Research Paper	5
Week Long Intensive	30
Total	130

REQUIRED READING

William Loader, *Sexuality in the New Testament*

C. Ben Mitchell, *Christian Bioethics*

M. Daniel Carroll R., *Christians at the Border*

Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith*

Kristopher Norris, *Kingdom Politics*

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Pre-reading self-assessment: in an essay of 400 words, summarize your view of the week's topic.
2. Analyses of the textbooks (Three double spaced pages/1200 words):
 - a. Identify, analyze, and evaluate the main thesis of the book.
 - b. Indicate in what ways the book changed your thinking about the subject
3. Online discussions of the five textbooks and other topics
4. Final project: Write a 2000 word essay in response to the question, "What is the ministerial task with respect to Christian ethics?" Consider questions such as, What is the minister's responsibility with respect to teaching and preaching? What are the appropriate forms of bearing Christian witness to social issues? What is the minister's prophetic task in relation to social issues?

Online Course Schedule: October 22-December 14, 2018

Week One: Sexuality (October 22-26)

1. Online assignment: Introduce yourself. Briefly tell the class about yourself, including your ministerial responsibilities. Additionally, indicate what you hope to learn from this course. **Due Monday, Oct. 22**
2. Preliminary assignment:
 - Consider the week's topic, sexuality, and write a 400 word report in which you identify and describe the most important issue relating to sexuality that the church faces.
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Tuesday, Oct. 23**
3. Online discussion of *Sexuality in the New Testament*:
 - Choose a thesis or claim made in the assigned book and post, in the Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) evaluation of that thesis or claim—do you agree with it or not? Explain your reasons for agreement or disagreement. **Due Wednesday, Oct. 24**

- Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Thursday, Oct. 25**
- 4. Write an essay of 1200 words in which you identify, analyze, and critique the main thesis of the assigned book. **Due Friday, Oct. 26**

Week Two: Medical Ethics (October 29-November 2)

1. Preliminary assignment:
 - Consider the week's topic, medical ethics, and write a 400 word report in which you identify and describe the most important issue relating to medical ethics that the church faces.
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Monday, Oct. 29**
2. Online discussion of *Christian Bioethics*:
 - Choose a thesis or claim made in the assigned book and post, in the Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) evaluation of that thesis or claim—do you agree with it or not? Explain your reasons for agreement or disagreement. **Due Tuesday, Oct. 30**
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Wednesday, Oct. 31**
3. Write an essay of 1200 words in which you identify, analyze, and critique the main thesis of the assigned book. **Due Friday, Nov. 2**

Week Three: On campus November 5-9

Weeks Four and Five: Follow-up discussions and Immigration (November 12-November 21)

1. Follow-up discussion #1:
 - Choose one lecture that you found to be especially enlightening or challenging (except for the lecture on professional ethics—see the next assignment). Post, in a Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) response to the lecture: How did it change your thinking about the subject? What did you learn? How did it challenge your previous beliefs?
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Monday, Nov. 12**
2. Follow-up discussion #2:
 - Response to Prof. Laird's lecture on professional ethics. Post, in a Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) response to the lecture: Will the material presented in this lecture change your ministerial practice? Have you observed violations of ministerial ethics? What was the most important take-away point of the lecture?
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Tuesday, Nov. 13**
3. Preliminary assignment:
 - Consider the week's topic, immigration, and write a 400 word report in which you identify and describe the most important issue relating to immigration that the church faces.
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Wednesday, Nov. 14**
4. Online discussion of *Christians at the Border*:
 - Choose a thesis or claim made in the assigned book and post, in the Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) evaluation of that thesis or claim—do you agree with it or not? Explain your reasons for agreement or disagreement. **Due Thursday, Nov. 15**
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Friday, Nov. 16**

5. Write an essay of 1200 words in which you identify, analyze, and critique the main thesis of the assigned book. **Due Wednesday, Nov. 21**

Week Six: Race (November 26-November 30)

1. Preliminary assignment:
 - Consider the week's topic, race, and write a 400 word report in which you identify and describe the most important issue relating to race that the church faces.
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Monday, Nov. 26**
2. Online discussion of *Divided by Faith*:
 - Choose a thesis or claim made in the assigned book and post, in the Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) evaluation of that thesis or claim—do you agree with it or not? Explain your reasons for agreement or disagreement. **Due Tuesday, Nov. 27**
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Wednesday, Nov. 28**
3. Write an essay of 1200 words in which you identify, analyze, and critique the main thesis of the assigned book. **Due Friday, Nov. 30**

Week Seven: Politics (December 3-December 7)

1. Preliminary assignment:
 - Consider the week's topic, Christianity and politics, and write a 400 word report in which you identify and describe the most important issue relating to this topic that the church faces.
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Monday, Dec. 3**
2. Online discussion of *Kingdom Politics*:
 - Choose a thesis or claim made in the assigned book and post, in the Canvas discussion, a brief (300-400 words) evaluation of that thesis or claim—do you agree with it or not? Explain your reasons for agreement or disagreement. **Due Tuesday, Dec. 4**
 - Write responses of 75 words to posts of 2 classmates. **Due Wednesday, Dec. 5**
3. Write an essay of 1200 words in which you identify, analyze, and critique the main thesis of the assigned book. **Due Friday, Dec. 7**

Week Eight: Conclusion (December 10-December 14)

1. Online discussion:
 - Post an essay of 300-400 words onto Canvas discussion in which you share your thoughts about the final assignment: What, in your opinion, are the minister's responsibilities regarding Christian ethics? What does the minister's prophetic role look like? What are the minister's responsibilities with respect to teaching and preaching? How does the church bear witness to its social teaching? **Due Tuesday, Dec. 11**
 - Write responses of 75 words to your posts of 2 classmates. **Due Tuesday, Dec. 11**
2. Final essay: See the description above ("course schedule and assignments"). **Due Friday, Dec. 14**

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment weights:		Grading Scale--Total Points possible 1000	
● Online Discussions	280 points (20 each)	A=930-1000	C=730-760
● Short reports	220 points (20 each)	A-=920-900	C-=700-720
● Analyses of textbooks	250 points (50 each)	B+=870-890	D+=670-690
● Final Paper	300 points	B=830-860	D=630-660
		B-=800-820	D-=600-620
		C+=770-790	F=0-590

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the at the end of the assigned day when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. “End of the day” means 5:00 pm PST. Late assignments will be result in a 10% reduction. Given that this is a graduate level class, if there are life related reasons why assignments are late, please communicate to the professor.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

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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 in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact Jean Moncada in the Center for Student Success (CSS) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at (619) 563-2849 or by e-mail at jmoncada@pointloma.edu. Ask your academic advisor or program director for any additional accommodation information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in 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. See Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for additional detail.