

# Course Syllabus

School of Theology and Christian Ministry  
CMI612 Christian Formation  
3 Units

**Spring Semester 2014**

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## **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**

A study of Christian formation including personal and congregational practices that contribute to mature faith formation and healthy ministerial personhood and practice.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

You will be able to...

1. Describe the disciplines of Christian Formation from a variety of Christian traditions including the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition.
2. Relate personal and corporate Christian formation practices in daily life.
3. Explain the nature of Christian vocation and ordination.

## **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 9 weeks.

### **Credit Hour Calculations**

Reading

20 hours

Discussion Boards	13 hours
Triads	20 hours
Writing Assignments	30 hours
On Campus Classroom Instruction	30 hours
	113 hours

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Smith, Gordon T., ***Called to be Saints: An Invitation to Christian Maturity***. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014 (paperback).

Thompson, Marjorie. ***Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life***. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005, 2014, revised edition. (paperback).

Nouwen, Henri, ***Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit***. HarperOne, 2010 (paperback).

Galindo, Israel and Marty Canaday. ***Planning for Christian Education Formation: A Community of Faith Approach***, St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2010 (paperback).

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## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Clearly define a grading policy to avoid any confusion concerning expectations; it's helpful if both a point distribution and a grading scale are included.

Grading Policy and Grading Scale		
Your grades will be posted in the Canvas gradebook no later than midnight on Wednesday of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the comments posted in the gradebook as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted within one week of the end of the class. Grades will be based on the following:		
<b>Table of Assignments</b>		
<b>Weeks 1-4</b>		
Discussion Questions x 4	25 each	100 total
Reflection Exercises x4		
Lectio Divina		
Life-Centered Prayer	25 each	100 total
Lectio Divina in Nature		
Rule of Life		

Triad Response Forum x4	25 each	100 total
Ministry Insight Report x4	25 each	100 total
Wiki Resource Page x4	No credit given	

#### **Week 5 on campus**

Participation Points x5	40 per day	200 total
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#### **Weeks 6-9**

Discussion Questions x 4	25 each	100 total
Weekly Project Assignment x 4	25 each	100 total
Triad Feedback Response X4	25 each	100 total
Final Project Paper		100 total

#### **TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR THE COURSE**

1000 TOTAL

#### **Grading Scale**

Total Points	Letter Grade
930-1000	A
900-929	A-
880-899	B+
830-879	B
800-829	B-
780-799	C+
730-779	C

**Grades below a C are not passing grades for MMin courses. Courses with C- or below must be retaken.**

#### **Discussion Boards**

Each week students will participate in online discussions with classmates, which are related to the week's readings. These discussions replace the interactive dialogue that occurs in the traditional classroom setting. **Discussions represent 20 % of the overall course grade.**

#### **Elective Written Exercises in Section 1**

Reflective written exercises are during the first online portion of this course. These journal entries will provide an opportunity for students to engage in spiritual disciplines for personal growth and to learn how to teach these exercises to others in the future.. These Reflective exercise are **10%of the overall course grade.**

#### **Triad Response Forum in Section 1 and 3**

Each student has been placed in a "Triad", a randomly selected small group. These groups will read each other's Reflection Exercises and respond in Section 1, will meet together during the on campus week, and will give weekly feedback to each other on the Project Assignments due each week in the last online portion of the course. These Triad Response Forums constitute **20% of the overall grade.**

#### **Projects Assignments in Section 3**

Each week in the final online portion of the course, students will be completing specific assignments from Planning For Christian Education Formation. These will be shared with Triad groups where ongoing feedback will be given. These assignments are building blocks for the final paper. **Project Assignments represent 10% of the overall course grade.**

### **Final Project**

Prepare your final Christian Formation Plan with the following content;

1. Theology of Christian Formation
2. Context for Ministry (include general demographics and a description of your location)
3. Christian Education Leadership Team description
4. Your 4 week Advent Plan
5. Summary of Learning

This plan should draw from coursework, include citations from our reading, and incorporate ideas and feedback given from the professor and your triad throughout the semester. Your plan should be 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced. Plan is due by Monday June 22. Please submit it in Canvas.

**(The Final Project represents 10% of the overall course grade.)**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular and punctual attendance is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. As a student in this course, you will have a minimum attendance requirement of three days each week. This means you will need to log into Canvas and post an assignment or response on at least three days in each week. Any day missed below this minimum requirement will count as an absence. Students may be dropped from the course if two such absences are recorded during the class and **will be** dropped if four such absences occur or if a student fails to attend class in any given week.

## **INCOMPLETE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates posted. **There will be a 5% reduction of possible points for** each day an assignment is late. If missing assignments result in the your failure to meet learning outcomes, this instructor may give up to a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

While there are due dates for weekly assignments, you are welcome to post your work earlier in the week. In our discussions, late work means that others may not have the opportunity to respond to your comments. It also means that you will not have the benefit of as much interaction with other students as you will have if your assignment is posted on time. If you know you will be away on the day your assignment is due, please post your work before you leave.

Assignments will be considered late if posted after midnight Pacific Standard Time on the day they are due.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the result of another person's creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. An instructor who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At PLNU, students must request academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student.

## SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. You'll find faith integration activities throughout this course. In addition, there are resources for your Christian faith journey available on the [Graduate Student Life](#) webpage.

## FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This course will meet the federal requirements by posting grades and returning assignments via the Canvas gradebook. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal.

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information.

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