



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

PHL2011-2 Fall 22 - Ethics

3 Units

Fall 2022

September 1-December 15

Meeting days: R	Instructor title and name: Dr. Eric James Morelli
Meeting times: 2:45-5:30pm	Phone: XXXXXXXXXX
Meeting location: City Heights 208	Email: emorelli@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Thursday, December 15, 2:45-5:15pm	Office location and hours: BAC 120 by appt.

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.

Community Classroom Mission

The mission of Community Classroom is to immerse students in a multicultural setting to nurture their Christian formation academically and vocationally. Community Classroom supports the mission and vision of PLNU by engaging students in current

issues outside the classroom and encouraging a global perspective as a student, follower of Christ, and global citizen to enhance their academic pursuits.

Each class will study a common book, complete a common assignment, and attend and participate in two community classroom dinners, the first on September 26 from 5-6:15pm and the second on November 14 from 5-7pm. The Community Classroom Program Coordinator Elodie Boinet-Rouffet will provide additional information and opportunities to get involved in the City Heights as the semester proceeds.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of right and wrong in principle, character, and conduct; practical moral issues analyzed from the basis of sound moral theory; characteristics of an adequate, consistent code of ethics.

Philosophic ethics is a comprehensive and reflective discipline. The other sciences and disciplines pursue specific knowledge of the various dimensions of existence – physics, chemistry, biology, neurology, psychology, sociology, economics, political science, anthropology, history, theology. The meanings and values pursued by these disciplines differ from one another, but they are all pursuits of meaning and value. Philosophic ethics seeks the most general knowledge of existence as a whole by reflecting on and understanding ourselves as seekers of meaning and value. Philosophic ethics is the serious effort to come to know and take possession of ourselves as seekers of meaning and value. This knowledge of ourselves as seekers of meaning and value in everything we do is what is meant by wisdom. The point of doing philosophic ethics, then, is to acquire wisdom, and the point to acquiring wisdom is to discover how we should live in order to fulfill ourselves, achieve happiness, grow in holiness, and better serve as disciples of Christ.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- *discern* the nature of philosophical self-knowledge and its relation to everyday living (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- *appropriate* the basic questions with which philosophers are concerned (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- *realize* what it means to take possession of oneself in a basic way (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- *uncover and employ* the distinction between being intelligent, reasonable, and responsible and, on the other hand, being unintelligent, unreasonable, and irresponsible (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);

- *understand* the relationship between philosophical self-knowledge and the pursuit of value (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- *be able to demonstrate competence* in philosophically ethical reflection and the ability to reflect philosophically and ethically on one's own living (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES (FELOs)

Context #1: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ

Institutional Learning Objective (ILO) #1: Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning.

- FELO #1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).
- FELO #1b. Oral: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).
- FELO #1c. Information Literacy: Students will be able to access and cite information as well as evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of information from a variety of sources (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).
- FELO #1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).

Context #2: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community

ILO #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.

- FELO #2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal well-being (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).
- FELO #2b. Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).
- FELO #2c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).

Context #3: Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith

ILO #3: Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

- FELO #3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper).

COMMUNITY CLASSROOM PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOs)

Through this program, you will:

- PLO #1: *develop* a concrete, ethical understanding of community in general and the City Heights community in particular (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- PLO #2: *discern* key factors in the life of a community in general and City Heights in particular and the drivers of progress and decline (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- PLO #3: *envision* a responsible, transformative, collaborative course of action you can take to promote progress in your community and City Heights to meet the demands of the historical moment (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mark D. Morelli, *Self-Possession: Being at Home in Conscious Performance*. **Second Edition**. Los Angeles, CA: Encanto Editions, **2019**.

Karen González, *The God Who Sees*. Harrisonburg, VA: Herald P, 2019.

Additional readings on Canvas.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

All students must follow PLNU's health and safety guidelines. For the latest, visit <https://www.pointloma.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-information/traditional-undergraduate-students/healthy-safe-community>.

DECORUM

Food and Drink

Students are asked to refrain from eating or drinking anything except water to avoid disrupting class.

Attendance

Except in cases of emergency or in accordance with official accommodations, students should not go in and out of class to avoid disrupting class. Plan ahead so you can be present and participate during the entire class.

Technology

Students may not use electronic devices during class unless in accordance with an official accommodation. Students must bring their pens, pencils, textbooks, notebooks, and hard-copies of assigned readings to each class.

Dialogue

Students must conduct their dialogue in class charitably and respectfully, listening attentively to others, beginning responses to others by paraphrasing the others' points they will be responding to and by checking to make sure their understandings of those points are correct, and contributing relevantly and considerately so that others also can respond and participate.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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 the appropriate grade for their work and participation. 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](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Defined

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 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 <http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278> for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

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 15 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. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown and Scale

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Assessment	Weight
Attendance and Participation	10%
5 Quizzes	30%
Midterm	20%
Term Paper	20%
Final	20%

Grades will be earned according to the following:

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	

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Late assignments and incompletes will only be accepted and assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

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

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.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, terms like "man" or "mankind" or the pronoun "he," should not be used

to refer to all humans. Instead “people,” “humanity,” “humans,” and “he or she” better acknowledge women as full persons.

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.

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 the Office of Spiritual Development.

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

CALENDAR

Week 1 Introduction to Ethics

9/1 What is Ethics?

DOING ETHICS

Week 2 Introduction to Ethics, Continued / Discerning the Aim of Conscious Performance

9/8 Canvas: Adler, “How to Read a Book” and Plato’s Cave Allegory; *Self-Possession* (SP), “Prologue” and Ch. 1; *The God Who Sees* (GWS), pp. 13-35;
Quiz

Week 3 Consciousness

9/15 SP Ch. 3 and 4; GWS pp. 37-47

Week 4 Conscious Operations and Their Order

9/22 SP Ch. 5; GWS pp. 49-72; Quiz

Week 5 Motifs of Conscious Performance

9/26 5-6:15pm Community Dinner

9/29 No Class

Week 6 Motifs of Conscious Performance, Continued

10/6 SP Ch. 6-11; GWS pp. 73-95; Quiz

Week 7 Blends, the Basic Tension, Authenticity, and Deliberate and Reflective Performance

10/13 SP Ch. 12-14; GWS pp. 97-109

Week 8 Deliberate and Reflective Performance

10/20 SP Ch. 14; Canvas: Fromm, "The Authoritarian Personality"; GWS pp. 111-122; Midterm

READING ETHICS**Week 9 Valuing Beauty and Creativity**

10/27 Canvas: Lonergan, "The Aesthetic Pattern of Experience"; Hegel, "What is Man's Need to Produce Works of Art?"; Tolstoy, "What is Art?"; Huyghe, "On Art"; GWS pp. 123-138

Week 10 Valuing Truth

11/3 Canvas: Aesop's Fable 5; Plato's Cave Allegory with Explanation; Socrates' Dialectical Method; Aristotle's *Metaphysics*; GWS pp. 139-150; Quiz

Week 11 Valuing Truth, Continued

11/10 Aristotle on the Contemplative Life; Descartes, *Meditations* 1-2; Fichte, "The Pure Interest in Truth"; Lonergan, "The Intellectual Pattern of Experience"; GWS pp. 151-164

Week 12 Seeking Absolute Meaning and Value

11/14 5-7pm Community Dinner

11/17 Canvas: Underhill on Mysticism; Anselm's Ontological Argument; Aquinas' Five Ways; Quiz

Week 13 Thanksgiving

Week 14 Valuing Persons

12/1 Canvas: Aristotle on Virtue as a Mean; Aristotle on Friendship and Self-Love; Kant on the Person as End in Itself; James, "Consciousness of Self"

Week 15 Valuing Persons, Continued

12/8 Canvas: Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism"; A Guide to Sartre's "Existentialism is a Humanism"; De Beauvoir on the Meaning of Life; Frankl, "Finding Meaning in Difficult Times"; MLK, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"; United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

Finals Week

12/15 2:45-5:15pm Final