

Meeting days/times: Mondays 12:15-1:10pm
Meeting location: Wesleyan Center Seminar Room (Smee Hall)
Final Exam: Dec. 11 @12:15-1:10pm

Instructor title and name:	Prof. Jennifer Guerra Aldana
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Office location and hours:	Smee 210- Tuesday and Thursday 10am-1pm

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.

Course Description

This course explores a broad view of Christian ministry and leadership as well as how to discern vocational calling through creative expressions of lay and ordained ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Develop a biblical and theological framework for vocational ministry
2. Explore the office of lay and ordained ministry.
3. Discover personal vocation, talent, and gifts for ministry.
4. Demonstrate theological reflection in specific ministry settings and situations.

Land, Labor, and Life Acknowledgement

As students and scholars at PLNU, we acknowledge our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the [Kumeyaay Diegueño Indian Tribe](#). May we be good guests to the people, the stories, the wisdom, the fruits of the land, and dwell with one another with peace.

Course Philosophy

Learning is a communal and collaborative process. For that reason, I hope that we can co-construct an environment of rich conversation and critical engagement. I expect students to engage deeply with the readings, come ready to have meaningful conversations, and engage the content with curiosity and effort. *I believe in active learning.* I recognize that I will ask you to engage in theological reflection and conversation in this course that may feel beyond your level of expertise or comfort– embrace it! Lean in, take risks and give your best effort. As your professor, I commit to providing feedback and being a partner in learning. *The best learning happens when we are stretched beyond what we know or are comfortable with but not to the point of becoming overwhelmed.* Communication will be critical; the more you choose to share, the best I can partner with and support you.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

- **Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation** by Parker J. Palmer, HB Printing / ISBN: 0-7879-4735-0 / 2000
- *Additional readings and electronic resources as assigned via Canvas*

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Assignments:	Grading Scale:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Participation (80)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assistance, 5 points per class● 6 D-Board Posts, 50 points each (300)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Anchor & Hope○ Shema Ministries○ Sojourners○ Lay Ministry○ Worship & Arts○ Spiritual Direction● 2 Reflection Assignments, 110 points each (220)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expectations Reflection○ Giftedness Reflection● Final Reflection 400 <p>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 1,000</p>	<p>A=93-100% A-=92-90% B+=87-89% B=83-86% B-=80-82% C+=77-79% C=73-76% C-=70-72% D+=67-69% D=63-66% D-=60-62% F=0-59%</p>

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 [Class 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 [class name], all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, 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, and I will 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 students 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 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](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

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

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.

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. You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

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.

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.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

DATE	Class Content	READ & DO <i>BEFORE</i> CLASS
August 28	Introduction to Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning community agreements 	
<i>Myths of Vocation</i>		
September 4	Myths of Vocation Part 1	Half of the class will read one resource and vice versa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>I'm Called to One Special Thing</u> booklet online Read <u>It All Happens Right Away</u> booklet online
September 11	Myths of Vocation Part 2	Half of the class will read one resource and vice versa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>If I Check All The Boxes, I Will Be Fulfilled</u> booklet online Read <u>My Calling is my Job</u> “Myths of Vocation” booklet online
<i>The Work of the Church & The Role of the Minister</i>		
September 18	History of the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threads and Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Ch 1 & 2 Expectations Reflection Due
September 25	Vocational Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joys and Limitations Types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Ch 3 & 4 Read <u>Ordination Process and Theology</u>
October 2	Finding the Thread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Ch 5 & 6 Giftedness Reflection Due
<i>Ministry Landscape</i>		
October 9	Ordained Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guests Speakers: Rev. Jeya & Dan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <u>A Short History on Ordination Part 1</u>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post to the D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Anchor & Hope Church)
October 16	Preaching Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Jane Hong-Guzman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Introduction and The Traditional Homiletic by Dr. Ahmi Lee
October 23	Mentorship Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Julius Obregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read The Art of Accompaniment pg. 11-23 • Post to D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Shema Ministries)
October 30	Community Development/ Advocacy Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Sandy Ovalle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Who Gets a Vote in God's Beloved Community by Sandy Ovalle • Post to D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Sojourners)
November 6	Lay Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Karla Renfro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Missional Theology: Becoming a More Faithful Witness by Creating More Inclusion and Equality by Karla Renfro. • Post to the D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Lay Ministry)
November 13	Worship & Arts Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Angie Hong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Equals At the Table by Angie Hong • Post to D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Worship and Arts)
November 20	Teaching & Discernment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Rebecca Laird 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Discerning Divine Presence by Henri Nouwen & Rebecca Laird
November 27	Spiritual Direction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Roslyn Hernandez 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post to the D-Board by Sunday at 8pm. (Spiritual Direction)
Imagining Ministry		
December 4	Rhythms for a Life of Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Sleeping: Sabbath, Rest and the Work of God by Tish Harrison Warren
December 11	Final Reflection & Meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reflection Due