



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

PHL2011-4

3 Units

Fall 2023

Meeting days/times: MW 8:15am – 9:30am

Meeting location: Taylor Hall 312

Final Exam: Wednesday December 13, 7:30am – 10:00am

Instructor title and name:	Dr. John McAteer
Phone:	619-510-1864 (cell, text okay)
Email:	jmcaateer@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	<i>By appointment</i>

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

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. describe and explain, in outline, the history of ethics and, in detail, ethics and the ethical theories of several of its pivotal figures;
 - Assessment: participation, reading responses, n-class discussion, online discussions, position paper, quizzes, final exam
2. analyze and criticize ethical situations, questions, reasoning, and diverse perspectives and positions;
 - Assessment: participation, reading responses, in-class discussion, online discussions, position paper, quizzes, final exam
3. discern the ethical dimension of everyday life, and its invitations to ethical inquiry;
 - Assessment: participation, reading responses, in-class discussion, online discussions, position paper, quizzes, final exam
4. apply your ethical inquiry and study of the history of ethics to historical and current events and your experiences and living within and beyond the academy work;
 - Assessment: participation, reading responses, in-class discussion, online discussions, position paper, quizzes, final exam
5. express yourself orally and in writing more clearly, meaningfully, truthfully, and philosophically
 - Assessment: participation, reading responses, in-class discussion, online discussions, position paper, quizzes, final exam

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

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

FELO #1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions

Outcome Measure: Students will write an essay responding to the prompt: Please clearly state St. Anselm's argument for the existence of God from chapter two of *Proslogion*.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. Boyd, Craig A. and Don Thorsen. *Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy: An Introduction to Issues and Approaches* (Baker Academic, 2018) – ISBN: 978-0801048234
2. Marino, Gordon (Ed.) *Ethics: The Essential Writings*. (Modern Library, 2010) – ISBN: 978-0812977783

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:		Percentage of final grade
1. Class Participation	Students are expected to attend all class meetings and participate in class activities and discussions. Students are granted TWO unexcused absences. All further absences will result in 20 points off the participation grade. Coming to class unprepared to participate in class activities will also result in 20 points off.	10%
2. Application Papers	Students will write a series of one-page papers explaining an ethical issue and defending their personal position on that issue. Due dates will be assigned in class.	40%
3. Midterm Exam	The Midterm will be an essay exam on the first half of course content to be completed in class.	25%
4. Final Exam	The Final exam will be a cumulative essay exam on the appointed day.	25%

Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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	

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.

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](#).

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

Date	Topic	Assignment
Mon 8/28	Intro to Course; Varieties of Ethics and Moral Thought	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 1
Wed 8/30	Relativism; Case Study: Violence against women and children	Marino Ch 13-14 (Benedict and Midgley)
Mon 9/4	Labor Day (No class)	
Wed 9/6	Ethics in the Hebrew Scriptures	<i>Last Day to Add/Drop</i> Boyd & Thorsen Ch 2 (18)
Mon 9/11	Case Study: Care for the Environment	Marino Ch 24 (Leopold)
Wed 9/13	Ethics in the Christian Scriptures	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 3 (15)
Mon 9/18	Case Study: The Nearest and the Neediest	Marino Ch 25 (Singer)
Wed 9/20	Divine Command Theory	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 4 (16)

Mon 9/25	DCT, continued	Marino Ch 1 (Plato's Euthyphro, p. 1-23)
Wed 9/27	God as the Ground of Goodness (The Ontological Argument)	Anselm's <i>Proslogion</i> (handout)
Mon 10/2	Ethics and the Problem of Evil	Marino Ch 4 (Augustine's Enchiridion. p. 116-118) Marino Ch 10 (Schopenhauer)
Wed 10/4	Natural Law Ethics	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 5 (30)
Mon 10/9	Case Study: Human Sexuality	Marino Ch 5 (Aquinas)
Wed 10/11	Catholic Social Thought; Liberation Ethics	Marino Ch 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
Mon 10/16	Midterm review	<i>Last day to turn in application papers for first half of course (Relativism, Environmentalism, Neighbors, Conscience, Sexuality)</i>
Wed 10/18	MIDTERM EXAM	
Mon 10/23	Kantian Ethics	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 7
Wed 10/25	Moral Luck; Case Study: Capital Punishment	Marino Ch 22 (Nagel)
Mon 10/30	Utilitarianism	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 8
Wed 11/1	Dirty Hands; Case Study: War	Marino Ch 27 (Walzer)
Mon 11/6	Continental Ethics	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 9
Wed 11/8	Ethics of Care; Case Study: Euthanasia	Marino Ch 21 (Noddings)
Mon 11/13	Existentialism	Marino Ch 11 (Nietzsche) Marino Ch 15 (Sartre)
Wed 11/15	Individualistic Ethics	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 6
Mon 11/20	Case Study: Abortion	Marino Ch 28 (Thomson vs Marquis)
Wed 11/22	Thanksgiving Break (No Class)	
Mon 11/27	Contractualism	Marino Ch 19 (Rawls)
Wed 11/29	Virtue Ethics	Boyd & Thorsen Ch 10
Mon 12/4	Moral Saints; Case Study: Lying	Marino Ch 23 (Wolf)
Wed 12/6	Final Review From Knowing to Doing	Marino Ch 12 (Kierkegaard) Marino Ch 17 (Coles) <i>Last day to turn in application papers for first half of course (Abortion, Capital Punishment, War, Euthanasia, Lying)</i>
Wed 12/13	FINAL EXAM	