

Point Loma Nazarene University  
**Justice, Politics, and the Social World**

**Instructor:** Heather K. Ross (she/her/hers)

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**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Course:** PHL 3021

**Semester:** FALL 2023

**Time:** MW 10:50-12:05

**Location:** Smee Wesleyan Center

**PLNU MISSION:**

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.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will engage in the disciplined practice of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers. (Learning, Growing)
2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy. (Learning)
3. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide an adequate account of significant issues that relates to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life. (Learning, Growing, Serving)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To examine what it means for us to be human as we exist with others.
2. To examine the way in which sociality has been utilized within the western philosophical tradition.
3. To examine concepts like justice, autonomy, the *polis*, race, gender, the Other, technology, social contract, class, power, torture, thought, bodies, community, etc.

## TEXTBOOKS:

- Steven M. Cahn. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* 2nd Edition ISBN# 978-0-19-979115-6
- Martin Heidegger. *Basic Writings*. Krell, Editor ISBN# 0-06-063763-3
- Hannah Arendt. *The Human Condition* 2nd edition ISBN# 0-226-02598-5
- Michel Foucault. *Discipline and Punish* ISBN# 0-394-72767-3
- Ta-Nehisi Coates. *Between the World and Me* ISBN# 978-0-8129-9354-7

## PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

1. We will be reading from some of the most significant **texts** in the history of western thought. It is vitally important that you become acquainted with the material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but *how* they make you think. I want you to be thoughtful and critical of what each of the thinkers writes, as well as of what I say in class. A significant portion of your grade will be based upon the amount of **reading** you do. You will be asked to give a report each day at the beginning of class on your reading progress (scale of 0-10). For example, an 8.5 means that you read carefully and thought about carefully 85% of the assigned reading for that day.
2. Regular and punctual **attendance** is required for the full benefit of this class. If you are late it is your responsibility to see me after class in order that your attendance may be recorded. Any three tardies will be recorded as one absence. Due to the size and nature of this class in particular, dialogue will be very important. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will be important. Therefore, *each* student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs (as well as the quality), along with attendance will be considered in your final grade. *You cannot pass the class* if you miss more than 6 class sessions. See the catalogue.
3. Throughout the term each of you will do two in-class **quotation presentations**. Please provide at least a 150 word general introduction to the work to be covered for that day. This should be *\*in your own words\** If it is the first day discussing a figure, there should be a general philosophical introduction to the figure covered during that session. It may include cultural analyses elucidating the time period surrounding the figure/work. The presentations should mainly be an outline of the text for the day. You should reference 4-5 significant portions of the text to be covered in class. You must provide a detailed list of quotations and bibliographic

citation/reference for each member of the class. Place your materials in both the previous week's DB and the Quotation Presentation assignment box. Pictures are always a welcome addition.

4. There will be 3 **Take-Home Exams/essays** due throughout the semester. Each of the exams will cover the material just prior to the reception of the exam (including the material covered on the day of the reception of the exam). I will give you an essay prompt and you will have a week to respond. You absolutely may not use outside sources for the exams. You may study together and I encourage you to do so. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or (more likely) failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.
5. Each of you will need to do a 750 word **book review** of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*. You will need to include a discussion of each of the following issues... the structure of the text (genre), the author himself (who is Coates?) and why does that matter?, the overarching theme/argument of the text, and a discussion of how this book has helped you understand the struggle of what it means –phenomenologically- to live as a black man in America. It is due December 8th by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas.
6. There will be a **final paper** due on December 15th at 11:59 p.m. via Canvas. It will be 1800-2,000 words typed and double-spaced. It will need to incorporate a vision of social existence whether critical or otherwise into an analysis of any topic or figure from the class. You will need to present a thesis statement to me prior to the final paper for my approval. You may make use of any official manual of style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.
7. **Discussion boards** will take place via Canvas. There will be one discussion board open per week. It will be on a two day cycle in which you post initially on the first day and reply the second day. You will post an initial response to the reading and then within a day later, you will post a reply to your colleagues. You will need to post a total of two times per week. Between your two posts, you will need to post 150-250 words total. Please include a word count at the end of each of your posts.
8. The **grades** are based on all of these mentioned assignments. All outside assignments are due at the beginning of class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated

and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or (more likely) failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.

Presentations 16% (8% x 2)  
Discussion Boards 13% (1 point per week)  
Reading 10%  
Exam #1 12%  
Exam #2 12%  
Exam #3 12%  
Coates Book Review 10%  
Final Paper 15%  
Total 100%

100-94% A	79-77% C+	63-60% D-
93-90% A-	76-74% C	59-0% F
89-87% B+	73-70% C-	
86-84% B	69-67% D+	
83-80% B-	66-64% D	

### **Discrimination/Harrassment**

Discrimination or harassment related to race, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual identity or orientation, differences in ability, religious choice, or any other type of behavior that dehumanizes human beings or dismisses difference, is not conducive to a good learning environment and is harmful to human vitality and healthy community. These behaviors will not be tolerated. We encourage all students to be open to any honest, respectful, and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

### **Inclusive Language**

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of all human beings regardless of gender. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of people who do not identify as male ,the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, for example, terms like “man” or “mankind” or the pronoun “he,” should not be used to refer to all humans.

Instead “human being/s,” “people,” “humanity,” “humans,” and “he, she or they” better acknowledge every human being as a full person.

### **Course Credit Hour Information:**

Sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 16 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 (an average of 7 hours per week).

### **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.

### **Late Assignments and Incompletes**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in to Canvas when they are due. Any excused late assignment must be completed within one week of the original due date and must be approved via email by me. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

### **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.

## **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the ERC (Educational Resource Center), located in the Bond Academic Center (619-849-2486). The ERC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the ERC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The ERC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that ERC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

## **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 Definition**

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.

### **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

### **SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE:**

8/28 | CLASS | Introduction to the course

8/30 | CLASS | Read Plato's *Republic* Book I (pdf)

9/4 | NO CLASS | Labor Day -No Class

9/6 | CLASS | Read Plato's *Republic* Book II (pdf)\*

9/11 | CLASS | Read Aristotle in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 173-180, 213-219\*

9/13 | CLASS | Read Hobbes in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 375-39XXX\*

9/18 | CLASS | Read Locke in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 450-470\*

9/20 | CLASS | Read Rousseau in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 561-573\*

9/25 | CLASS | Read Hegel in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 829-844\*

9/27 | CLASS | Read Marx in *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* pp. 878-896

Submit **Exam I Due\***

10/2 | CLASS | Read DeBeauvoir (*PDF*) pp. xix-xxxvi\*

10/4 | CLASS | Read Heidegger's *Basic Writings* pp. 311-328

10/9 | CLASS | Read Heidegger's *Basic Writings* pp. 328-341\*

10/11 | CLASS | Read Arendt's *The Human Condition* pp. 248-268\*

10/16 | CLASS | Read Arendt's *The Human Condition* pp. 268-289\*

10/18 | CLASS | Read Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* pp. 3-31

Submit **Exam II Due\***

10/23 | CLASS | Read Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* pp. 195-228\*

10/25 | CLASS | Watch *13th* documentary (Netflix) and write 1 paragraph response  
DUE 11:59 via Canvas (complete/incomplete)

10/30 | CLASS | Read Scarry (*PDF*) pp. 27-59\*

11/1 | CLASS | Read Davis's *Planet of Slums* (*PDF*) pp. 121-130\*

11/6 | CLASS | Read Haraway's [A Cyborg Manifesto](#)

11/8 | CLASS | Read Haraway's [A Cyborg Manifesto](#)

11/13 | CLASS | Read Butler reading (*PDF*) pp. 692-702

Email Exam II prompt \*

11/15 | CLASS | Read Loomba (*PDF*) pp. 150-183\*

11/20 | CLASS | Read [Coates's "The Case for Reparations"](#)

11/22-24 | NO CLASS | Thanksgiving Break -No Class

11/27 | CLASS | Read Coates's *Between the World and Me* pp. 1-71

Submit **Exam III Due**

11/29 | CLASS | Read Coates's *Between the World and Me* pp. 73-152

12/4 | CLASS | Read Sharon Betcher's [Crip/tography: Disability Theology in the Ruins of God](#)

12/6 FLEX

Submit **Coates Book Review Due**

12/13 Submit **Final Paper Due** noon, my box Smee Hall