

School of Theology and Christian Ministry

THE 3060 - Christian Life As Vocation

Three Units

Fall 2023

Meeting days/times – Tuesdays 3:00pm-5:45pm
Off-Campus (Point Loma) City Heights 201(OC
CITY1)

Instructor title
and name:

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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 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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the theology and practice of vocation as they have developed in the biblical and Christian traditions. Students will be led to reflect on career and professional life in a Christian way. The course will also study Christian ethical ways of living in the world.

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of Christian scripture, tradition, and ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy in response to the call of God. (FELO 1)
2. Develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others while negotiating complex environments. (FELO 2)
3. Acquire knowledge of culture and develop skills and habits that foster lifelong learning. (FELO 3)

Measurement/Assessment of FELO

1. (FELO 1) Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Christian tradition and its relation to the call of God through Discussion Board reflections, Presentation on Community Classroom book, and Final Paper.
2. (FELO 2) Students will display growth in understanding themselves and others while negotiating difficulty primarily through their completion of the Initial Reflection post, the Expectations Project and the Final Paper.
3. (FELO 3) Knowledge of culture and the acquisition of skills necessary for lifelong learning will be demonstrated through the Community Exegesis project and the City Heights Discussion Board post.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to articulate the historical, cultural, and social contexts that helped shape our ordinary conception of "vocation."
2. Students will be able to give critically analyze the ways in which the Christian tradition's thinking about "vocation" does and does not fit with broader, contemporary understandings of the concept.
3. Students will be able to explain the ways in which key components of Christian praxis figure into thinking about the Christian life as vocation.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. Gregory Boyle, *The Whole Language: The Power of Extraordinary Tenderness* (New York: Avid Reader Press, 2021)
2. Gary Badcock, *The Way of Life: A Theology of Christian Vocation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)
3. Rowan Williams, *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014)

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 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. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Sample Standard 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	

Incompletes and Late Assignments

To get full credit, all assignments must be submitted by the due date. Please reach out to me if there are emergencies or other extenuating 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](#)[Links to an external site.](#) 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](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

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 drop date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Assignments At-A-Glance

- Discussion Board Posts
- Expectations Project
- Community Exegesis
- Book Review Presentations/Discussions
- Final Paper

DATE

READ & DO BEFORE CLASS

August 29th: Welcome!

Intro Vocation and Elements of Christian Life

September 5th:

Vocation and Identity

- Read Flannery O'Connor, "Parker's Back"
- Discussion board post on "Parker's Back" Due

September 12th:

Overview of Vocation

- Read Gary Badcock, *The Way of Life*, ch. 1-3
- Discussion Board post on "Initial Reflections on Vocation" due

September 19th:

Practices Relevant to
Christian Life

- Read Rowan Williams, *Being Christian*, Intro and chs. 1 and 2

September 26th:

Community Dinner #1,
5:30-7:00pm

Practices Relevant to
Christian Life

- Read Rowan Williams, *Being Christian*, chs. 3 and 4

Expectations Project Due

Concept I: WORK

October 3rd:

MODERNITY,
VOCATION, AND
DIS/MIS-
ENCHANTMENT

- Read Max Weber, sections from *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
- Read Eugene McCarragher, sections from *The Enchantments of Mammon*

October 10th:

THEOLOGY OF WORK

- Read John Hughes, *The End of Work*, Introduction and chapter 1
- Discussion Board Post on City Heights Population

October 17th:

VALUE AND WORK

- Read Mariana Mazzucato, *The Value of Everything*, selections
- Read Robert and Edward Skidelsky, *How Much is Enough*, selections

October 24th:

SABBATH

- Read selections from Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics III/4*

Concept II: Creation/Agency

October 31st:

The Art of Being a
Creature

- Read selections *From Nature to Creation* by Norman Wirzba
- Discussion Board post on “Creation” due

November 7th:
Creativity

- Read excerpts from Rowan Williams and Marilynne Robinson talk <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/interview/faith-imagination-and-glory-ordinary-life>
- Read selections from Willie James Jennings, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*

November 14th :

The Value and Art and
Vocation

- Watch Natalie Lecture "Why this Waste? Defending Art in a World of Poverty"

+ CC Din, 5:30-7:00pm
11/16 (Thursday)

Concept III: Calling

November 21st:
Calling and Creation

- Read Mulhall, *The Conversation of Humanity*, last chapter
- **Community Exegesis Project Due**

November 28th:
The Limits of Language

- Read select poems (to be distributed)

December 5th:
Telling Ourselves and
Naming

- Read essays from Herbert McCabe ("Narrative and Living Together," and "Ethics as Language")
- In-class discussions/reviews/presentations on Gregory Boyle's *The Whole Language*

December 14th:
1:30-4:00pm

Final Paper due
Review of Gregory Boyle, *The Whole Language* due

Assignments and Grades:

Attendance and Participation (260)

3 Community Classroom Assignments (120)

Community Exegesis= 60

Community Dinner #1 = 30

Community Dinner #2 = 30

4 D-Board Posts, 30 points each = (120)

Projects (500)

Expectations Project = 100

Book Review Presentation = 100

Final Paper = 300

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 1000

Grading Scale:

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%