

HON1000-1 SU24 - Introduction To Christian Scholarship

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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 molded 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.

Honors Mission Statement

"The Honors Program exists to promote greater understanding of diverse human traditions of self-awareness and creativity. Examining these traditions in light of the Christian faith and liberal methods of learning, students excel in their abilities to interpret and discuss written, visual, and sonic texts within theological and interdisciplinary frameworks. Students take their education beyond the classroom in extracurricular activities, as well as in works of service and mercy as informed by the Wesleyan tradition."

Course Description

This course introduces students to the Honors Program. It is primarily structured around readings and conversations about our readings. Readings and discussions are organized into three sections: "Origins," "Habits," and "Vocation." The first section surveys the major historical events and figures who helped establish a biblically informed scholastic tradition. The second section analyzes the habits of the mind, heart, and body that encourage us transform into Christian scholars. The third section meditates on who we are called to be in Jesus Christ, both as individuals and as members of His body. As each one of these sections could be developed into an entire course by itself, our readings and discussions are designed to introduce students to the great conversation of Christian Scholarship, which I hope they participate in for the rest of their lives.

Course Learning Outcomes

- identify major ideas, methods, and virtues associated with the Christian intellectual tradition.
- reflect on various academic and career paths in the context of Christian ideas about vocation.
- participate in out-of-the-classroom experiences that deepen their understanding of ideas introduced in the classroom, of themselves, and of fellow students.

Required Reading

Fujimura, *Art and Faith*

Kreeft, *Wisdom of the Heart*

Merton, *Seven Storey Mountain*

Wilson, *Reading for the Love of God*

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

- 1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.
- 1b. Oral: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.
- 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.
- 1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.
- 2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal well-being.
- 3: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.

Participation

Participation is vital to academic success. Participation takes many forms, but generally includes showing up on-time, looking alert and ready to learn, and being familiar with previous content; focusing one's attention on PowerPoint slides, lectures, and classroom conversations; asking and answering questions, staying after class to gain further understanding of subject matter, and availing oneself to Dr. Cater's office hours. As a one-unit Honors course, HON1000 requires two to three hours of outside study per week. Finding quiet time to read and re-read, discuss and think about lecture notes and course readings are incredibly important to success in this class, other classes, and many pursuits in life. Regarding classroom conversations, students should seek to speak in informed, relevant, and respectful ways. Dr. Cater is committed to making the class a safe learning environment for everyone. Student participation will be rewarded quantitatively but measured according to the instructor's perceptions of its quality and frequency. Punctual attendance is mandatory, but if tardiness becomes a habit, Dr. Cater will issue a

warning and note to the student's adviser. Missing more than 1 class (roughly ten percent of the total) will result in being reported to Dr. Holly Irvin, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs; missing 4 classes will trigger a student's de-enrollment from the course.

Course Communication and Digital Devices

Students are responsible for all communication sent by Dr. Cater to their PLNU email and Canvas accounts. The instructor prefers face-to-face communication, both after class and during office hours, but frequently provides clarifying notes about lectures and assignments through digital channels, so please check them daily. Dr. Cater communicates with students Monday through Friday and occasionally, on Saturday. Please do not expect him to communicate with you until sundown on Sundays. Cell phones, laptops, and tablets are prohibited in class since overwhelming evidence (from neuroscientists and psychologists, mainly) has confirmed that students from PLNU to Harvard Law School and many schools in between are more easily distracted, unable to process and put together ideas, and retain information when they take notes digitally than when they do so with pen and paper.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>Links to an external site.

https://hbr.org/2015/07/what-you-miss-when-you-take-notes-on-your-laptopLinks to an external site.

https://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-awayLinks to an external site.

https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/08/note-taking-low-tech-often-bestLinks to an external site.

However, if you need to use your cell phone or strongly prefer to use your laptop or tablet, see Dr. Cater to make arrangements.

Make-ups and Academic Accommodations

Make-up exams and quizzes will not be allowed without a university-approved reason that is agreed to in writing by the university Provost. In compliance with federal and state laws, students requesting academic accommodations “must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DCR), located in the Bond Academic Center.” The DCR will then contact the student’s instructor and “provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student.” For more information, see “Academic Accommodations” in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Grading

25 pts Participation

50 pts Reading Reflections

50 pts Essay

Course grades will be based on a combination of class participation, reading reflections, and a final essay. Reflections should cover the key ideas, concepts, questions, etc. of the assigned reading. Include page numbers and direct quotations if you choose to include them. Ask questions or offer your thoughts in your reflections. Show me that you're thinking carefully – not just passively reading. The final essay will serve as the final exam of the course, and address a prompt that Dr. Cater will provide.

Final Exam Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final exam on its scheduled day. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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. For more information, see the following link:

https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=41&navoid=2435#Academic_Honesty

University Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the U.S. Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Below is an approximate schedule of units, topics, assignments, and assessments.

All classes will be held on Zoom:

<https://pointloma.zoom.us/j/93398260135?pwd=a1V5Q1Q1S3A1NFBSblhaVG16T2d3QT09>

5/7 10AM: Kreeft, Preface and Part I

5/13 10AM: Kreeft, Part II

5/17 7PM: Kreeft, Part III

5/20 7PM: Fujimara, Chpts. 1-3

5/24 7PM: Fujimara, Chpts. 4-6

5/27 10AM: Fujimara, Chpts. 7-10

6/3 10AM: Wilson, Chpts. 1-4

6/7 10AM: Wilson, Chpts. 5-7

6/14 10AM: Merton, Part I

6/21 10AM: Merton, Part II

6/28 10AM: Merton, Part III

7/5 Reading Reflections due

7/12 Final Essay Due

Write a 3-5 page essay about Christian Scholarship. Your essay should have a thesis, good organization, and arguments with evidence drawn from your readings and notes. It should address the following issues: According to the books we read, what is Christian scholarship? What ideas, attitudes, practices are central to it? How might the Gospel impact your general course of study, major field, or future profession? Be specific.