

Meeting days/times: Mondays 8:30-9:25 am

Meeting location: Smee Hall 100

Final Exam: Dec. 16 @ 8:30-9:25 am

Instructor title and name:	Prof. Jennifer Guerra Aldana
Email:	jennifeguerraaldana@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Smee 210- Use the link in email signature to schedule
Teachers Assistant (TA)	Kendra Hudson

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.

General Education 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.

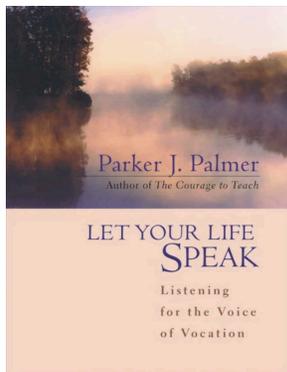
Land, Labor, and Life Acknowledgement

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 (150) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance, 10 points per class ● 2 Myth Overview Assignments (200) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Myth Assignments, 100 points each ● 6 Reflection Assignments, 40 points each (240) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expectations Reflection ○ Giftedness Reflection ○ 4 Ministry Landscape Reflections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Reflection 410 <p>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 1,000</p>	<p>D=63-66%</p> <p>D-=60-62%</p> <p>F=0-59%</p>
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A note on participation: Come to the (literal, virtual, and metaphorical) table with the humility and readiness to learn from your peers, share with your peers, and challenge your peers when appropriate. Rather than simply finding a way to talk a lot, focus your concern on doing your part to promote meaningful course dialogue regarding the reading and classroom activities.

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 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. Late assignments will only be accepted if professor has been notified in advance and will receive a 10% deduction per day they are late.

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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel. Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request. 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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes. 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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC

process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions,

supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research. Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Course Schedule and Assignments:

DATE	Class Content	READ & DO <u>BEFORE</u> CLASS
Week 1 September 2	LABOR DAY- No Class	
Week 2 September 9	Introduction to Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning community agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase book
Myths of Vocation		
Week 3 September 16	Myths of Vocation Part 1	Class will be split into two groups, each one will read ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Read <u>I'm Called to One Special Thing</u> (posted on canvas) • Group 2: Read <u>It All Happens Right Away</u> (posted on canvas) • Myth Overview #1 DUE
Week 4 September 23	Myths of Vocation Part 2	Class will be split into two groups, each one will read ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: <u>If I Check All The Boxes, I Will Be Fulfilled</u> (posted on canvas) • Group 2: <u>My Calling is my Job</u> "Myths of Vocation" (posted on canvas) • Myth Overview #1 DUE
Vocational Ministry and the Work of Discernment		
Week 5 September 30	Vocational Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological and Biblical framework for ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Ch 1-3 • Expectations Reflection Due
Week 6 October 7	Work of Discernment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Darlene Hutto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Ch 4-6

Ministry Landscape		
Week 7 October 14	Missionary Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Rev. Julie Murakami 	
Week 8 October 21	Teaching and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Montague Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the podcast and come ready with questions for guest speaker https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sound-of-the-genuine/id1572223219?i=1000611035004 • Ministry Landscape Part 1 Reflection
Week 9 October 28	Worship and the Arts Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January Lim 	
Week 10 November 4	Chaplaincy Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Chris Nafis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Landscape Part 2 Reflection
Week 11 November 11	Preaching & Spiritual Formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Kirstyn Teegarden 	
Week 12 November 18	Community Development/ Advocacy Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Sandy Ovalle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Landscape Part 3 Reflection
Week 13 November 25	Ordained Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Rev. Christine & Albert Hung 	
Imagining Ministry		
Week 14 December 2	Ministry Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Career Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Landscape Part 4 Reflection
Week 15 December 9	Rhythms for a Life of Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <u>Sleeping: Sabbath, Rest and the Work of God</u> by Tish Harrison Warren • Giftedness Reflection Due
Week 16 December 16	Final Reflection & Meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reflection Due