



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

CMI 1065 Faith Formation and Community

3 Units

Fall Semester 2024

MWF 1:30-2:25 pm

Meeting location, Classroom, Smee Hall 101

Final Exam: Wednesday 1:30pm

Instructor title and name:	Dr. Rebecca Laird, Professor of Christian Ministry and Practice, Interim Dean
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Office location and hours:	Smee Hall 209, Wednesday 9-9:45, 11-1pm, and by appointment

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.

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the church as a formational community for discipleship. The roles and offices of all members of the Christian church will be defined and seen as working together as the Body of Christ. The classical Christian disciplines will be practiced and studied as a means of grace. A method of theological reflection for ministry will be outlined and implemented.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

Students will

1. Identify biblical, theological and historical elements of ministry.
2. Understand a Wesleyan view of the “means of grace.”
3. Gain skills in personal and corporate spiritual practices.
4. Apply a method of theological reflection for ministry

Course of Study Ability Statements (for those pursuing ordination)

CH 4 Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation and the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace.

CH 5 Ability to locate, understand, and use resources for individual and corporate spiritual formation.

CH 8 Ability to practice holistic stewardship (mutual submission in gender relationships, sexual purity, marriage and family, personal finances, professional conduct, practicing Sabbath, etc.)

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. Leclerc, Diane and Mark A. Maddix, eds. *Spiritual Formation: A Wesleyan Paradigm*. (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2011).
2. Root, Kara. *The Deepest Belonging: A Story of Where God Meets Us*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press) 2021. 1506470939.
3. Thompson, Margery. *Soul Feast: Newly Revised Edition, An Introduction to the Christian Spiritual Life* (Louisville: John Knox Publishers, 2014).
4. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, S. Steve Kang, and Gary A. Parrett. 2004. *A Many-Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books). 978-0-8020-2743-7.

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 15 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 120 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Assessment and Grading

Assessment and Grading

1. Leading meditation: 15 points
2. Reading Reports: You will complete 9 reading reports on Canvas. 15 points each. 135 points maximum.
3. Practice and Ministry assignments
 - a. Spiritual autobiography 100 points
 - b. *Lectio divina* exercise 50 points
 - c. Prayer of examen exercise 50 points
 - d. Worship exploration 100 points
 - e. Rule of life exercise 50 points
 - f. Community assessment 50 points
 - g. Ministry Safe training program 100 points
4. Group Retreat Plan 80 possible group points. 20 possible individual points. 100 maximum points
5. Exams
 - a. Two module exams at 75 points each = 150
 - b. Final 100

Total possible points points 1000

Grades will be based on the following:

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.

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. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. 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 in the area of [subject/major], 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.

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 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*

This class requires personal reflection and theological discernment. Neither of these tasks require AI.

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. 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 drop date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Online classes require attendance and Canvas records the time spent working on the materials. This information will be used to determine attendance.

Assignments At-A-Glance

	Class Date	Class Topic and Content	Assignments and Due Dates (reading and assignments are done prior to class)
	MODULE 1	RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD	
WEEK 1	W Sept 4	Welcome and overview of the class	
	F Sept 6	Storytelling, meaning-making and belonging	Read Root, Preface, Intro and Chapter 1. Review the discussion questions for The Deepest Belonging (Root), be ready to discuss.
WEEK 2	M Sept 9	Sharing Your Journey of Faith with Each Other	Bring Stepping Stone Exercise to class to share.
	W Sept 11	Introduction to the Spiritual Life	Read LeClerc & Maddix, Chp 1 and Thompson, Introduction & Chp. 1. <u>Turn in your spiritual autobiography on Canvas</u>
	F Sept 13	Persistent Questions and Spiritual	Read Root, Chp 2 and turn

		Formation	in a reading report on Canvas. Respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide in writing. Cite page numbers.
WEEK 3	M Sept 16	The Bible and Spiritual Formation	Read Leclerc & Maddix, Chps 2-3 and Thompson, Chp. 2
	W Sept 18	Wesleyan Spiritual Tradition and The Means of Grace	Read Leclerc and Maddix 5-7 Turn in your lectio divina assignment
	F Sept 20 Department chapel day	Traditions of Faith Formation	Read Root, Chp 3 and turn in a reading report on Canvas. Respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers.
Week 4	M Sept 23	Prayer and Spiritual Formation	Read Leclerc and Maddix, 4 and Thompson, Chp. 3
	W Sept 25	Self-Examination and Self-Awareness on the Spiritual Journey	Read Thomson Chp. 7
	F Sept 27 SOTCM RETREAT IN JULIAN	Reclaiming Sabbath Time—get ready for retreat!	<u>Turn in your examen exercise on Canvas.</u>
Week 5	M Sept 30	Debrief the retreat	Meet in groups for final retreat project
	W Oct 2	Daily ways to pray with our bodies: breath prayers, fasting/feasting, movement	Read Leclerc & Maddix, Chp. 11 and Thompson Chp. 6
	F Oct 4	Module 1 Exam	Read Root chp. 4 and turn in a reading report

			on Canvas. Respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers.
MODULE 2 RELATIONSHIP IN COMMUNITY			
	M Oct 7	Spiritual Formation of Families: Community of Origin	Read LeClerc and Maddix 18 and 19
	W Oct 9	Spiritual Formation and the Church (go over worship exploration assignment)	Read LeClerc and Maddix, 8-9, Thompson.
	F Oct 11	Contemplation and Sabbath	Read Thompson, Chp 5 and Root chp 5 and turn in a reading report on Canvas. Respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers.
	M Oct 14	The Inward Outward Rhythm of Faith	Read Leclerc and Maddix, Chps. 15-17
	W Oct 16	Fasting and Feasting	Read Thompson, Chp. 6
	F Oct 18	Understanding Conversion	Read Root Chp. 6 and turn in a reading report on Canvas. Respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers.
	M Oct 21	Worship Exploration papers shared	Turn in your worship exploration paper on Canvas before class.
	W Oct 23	Module 2 Exam online	Take the exam online during class time
	F Oct 25	Fall Break–no class	

	MODULE 3	MINISTRY FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS	
	M Oct 28	Online Class	Watch Ministry Safe Videos
	W Oct 30	Spiritual Friendship/Spiritual Direction	Read Thompson, Chp. 8
	F Nov 1	Hospitality to the Other	Read Thompson, Chp. 9 Read Root, Chp. 7 respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers.
	M Nov 4	Self-care and Rule of Life	Read Thompson, Chp 10
	W Nov 6	Spiritual Formation in Context	Read Frazier, et al, Chps 1-3. <u>Turn in your Rule of Life exercise on Canvas.</u>
	F Nov 8	Living in the counter-cultural kingdom of God	Read root Chapter 8 and respond in 150-200 words to one of the questions from the discussion guide. Cite page numbers
	M Nov 11	The Ecology of a Monastic Community East meets West in New Skete	Read Frazier and others, chp 4-5
	W Nov 13 Dr Laird away	Cultivating Shalom Guest speaker	Read Frazier and others, Chp 6
	F Nov 15 Dr. Laird Away	Work in groups on final retreat project	Read Root, chp 9, and respond in 150-200 words each to one question from each chapter. Cite page numbers

	M Nov 18	Cultural Sensitivity and Ministry	Read Frazier et al, 7-8 and Conclusion
	W Nov 20	Exegeting the neighborhood in OB	Walk Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach in a small group of 2-3. Fill out a community assessment form together.
	F Nov 22	Gender and faith formation	Turn in your Community assessment on Canvas Read Root, chp. 10 no reading response due this week
	M Nov 25	Watch Ministry Safe videos	
	W Nov 27	Thanksgiving Break–No classes	
	F Nov 29	Thanksgiving Break–No classes	
	M Dec 2	Safe Spaces for Faith Formation (visit to San Diego First Church)	Complete Ministry Safe Training
	W Dec 4	Guest speaker–formation in the early adult years	
	F Dec. 6	God in All Things	Read Root, chp. 11-12. Be ready to discuss the question on the study guide
	M Dec 9	Theological Reflection for Discernment: Personal discernment	Read material posted on Canvas
	W Dec 11	Theological Reflection for Discernment: Small group practice	Read material posted on canvas.
	F Dec 13	Ecology of Faith Formation Assessment of Kara Root and her faith community	Read Root 13 and respond in 150-200 words each to one question from each chapter. Cite page numbers

	M Dec	Retreat Presentation: Group 1 & 2	Turn in your retreat plan prior to the day you present
	W Dec 11	Retreat Presentation: Group 3 & 4	
	F Dec 13	Retreat Presentation: Group 5 & 6	
		Final exam–Wed 1:30pm	