

HON1000 - Introduction To Christian Scholarship (1)
Honors Program – General Education
Fall 2024
Course Meeting Time and Location: T 1:30-2:25 BAC102

Instructor: Ben Cater, Ph.D.
Office: Evans 124E
Phone: 619.849.2932
Email: bcater@pointloma.edu
Office hours: drop-ins 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 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 Humanities Honors Program. Students will be introduced to the history and aspirations of the Christian liberal arts and ways that their education as aspiring scholars is situated within the larger context of God's will and purposes for their lives. Students will also be introduced to and participate in various acts of Christian devotion and works of mercy that are important practices of the Wesleyan tradition.

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.

General Education 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.

Required Texts

Bilbro, *Reading the Times* (9780830841851)

Fujimura, *Art and Faith* (9780300254143)

Hughes, *The Vocation of a Christian Scholar* (9780802829153)

McDermott, *Everyday Glory* (9780801098291)

Participation

Participation is vital to academic success. Participation includes showing up on-time, alert and ready to learn, and being familiar with previous content; concentrating on class lectures and conversations; asking and answering questions, staying after class for conversation; and availing oneself to Dr. Cater's office hours. HON1000 counts for one-unit and thus requires two to three hours of outside study per week. Since this course is conversation-heavy, please be respectful when you speak. Dr. Cater is committed to making our course a safe learning environment for everyone. Participation will be rewarded with points but measured according to the instructor's perceptions of its qualitative value. If you are late to class, 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-laptop>Links to an external site.

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

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/08/note-taking-low-tech-often-best>Links 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	Weekly Reading Notes
50 pts	Essay

Course grades are based on a combination of participation, reading notes/written reflections, and an essay. The essay will count as the final exam. Reading notes come due at the beginning of class and uploaded to Canvas. They should be 2-3 pages and cover the key ideas, concepts, questions, etc. of the reading. They should include direct quotations that are cited with page numbers. They can include questions or thoughts about the reading - anything that demonstrates you're thinking carefully, not just staring at the text.

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.

Academic Honesty Policy

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https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=41&navoid=2435#Academic_Honesty
[Links to an external site.](#)

Artificial Intelligence Policy

If it is part of your creative process, you are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, etc.) in this course. However, I would like you to speak to me before about how you plan to use this tool in your work. Another thing to note: most publications DO NOT allow use of AI in creative works. At this current cultural moment, using AI will limit where you can publish and work. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. For example, if you use ChatGPT, you must cite ChatGPT including the version number, year, month and day of the query and the statement "Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/Links to an external site..>" Further, you must include with your work the sequential prompts and methodology that you used to generate it. Failure to indicate AI as part of the work will be considered plagiarism. It is important that you protect your colleagues' intellectual property. Providing AI with samples of your colleagues' works will result in an F in this course.

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

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. See [Academic PoliciesLinks to an external site.](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online. Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

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.

Below is an approximate schedule of units, topics, assignments, and assessments. Dr. Cater reserves the right to make adjustments if necessary.

Part I: Origins

Sept 3 – *Simply Christian* and the Creeds

Sept 10 – *Simply Christian* and the Creeds

Come having read the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. See here for both: <https://store.christianitytoday.com/blogs/articles/nicene-apostles-creeds>[Links to an external site.](#)

Sept 13 - (optional) Honors event: Welcome Back Dinner at Cater's House (4644 Adair), 5pm

Sept 17 – *Everyday Glory*, chpts. 1-5

Sept 24 – *Everday Glory*, chpts. 6-11

Sept 26 - (optional) Honors event: "Reclaiming the Courageous Middle," Dr. Shirley Mullen, President Emerita, Houghton College

Part II: Habits

Oct 1 – “Why Walking Helps Us Think” <https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/walking-helps-us-think>Links to an external site.

Petrarch, "The Ascent of Mount Ventoux"

<https://history.hanover.edu/texts/petrarch/pet17.html>

Oct 5 - (optional) Honors event: "Public Health Forum in Response to the Tijuana Watershed Pollution Crisis". Listen to a moderated discussion with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre. Balboa Park 9:30-11AM. Lunch to follow.

4-6PM (in Balboa Park) there will be a forum on transboundary green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Oct 8 – "What Conversation Can Do For

Us" [https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/03/20/what-conversation-can-do-for-](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/03/20/what-conversation-can-do-for-us)

[us?utm_campaign=falcon_mHCX&utm_source=facebook&utm_brand=tny&utm_medium=social&utm_social-type=owned&mbid=social_facebook&fbclid=IwAR2sP0qUUX2IA-oYrruQCox6bs24rAmY2MXVVSyQybmDOoikcRm_ZQiVmmw](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/03/20/what-conversation-can-do-for-us?utm_campaign=falcon_mHCX&utm_source=facebook&utm_brand=tny&utm_medium=social&utm_social-type=owned&mbid=social_facebook&fbclid=IwAR2sP0qUUX2IA-oYrruQCox6bs24rAmY2MXVVSyQybmDOoikcRm_ZQiVmmw)Links to an external site.

*For this week, come having read and discussed the essay above while you walk and talk with your assigned partner at Peet's Coffee (955 Catalina Blvd. Ste 103. San Diego, CA 92106). Identify the central argument and supporting evidence. Discuss whether you agreed/disagreed with it and why. Talk about the challenges or obstacles to taking walks or slowing down for thoughtful conversation. How can you address these challenges and how might you incorporate walking and talking into your academic habits? Take a selfie of you and your partner and include it in a 1-2 page summary of your conversation. Upload to Canvas.

Oct 15 – *Reading the Times*, Part I

Oct 19 - (optional) Honors event: Sailing San Diego Bay

Oct 22 – *Reading the Times*, Part II

Oct 29 – *Reading the Times*, Part III

Nov 5 – **NO CLASS**

“Six Ways Digital Technology Deforms

Us” <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/technology-deforms/>Links to an external site.

“When A.I. Goes to War” <https://christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/july-web-only/when-ai-goes-to-war-moore-kristian.html>Links to an external site.

Read the articles above and then meet with a student in class to discuss the questions below. Write a 1-2 page summary of your conversation and upload to Canvas.

1: On average, how much time do you spend online every day? What do you do online - read, research, work, watch videos, etc? Discuss your online habits with your calling to wisdom-seeking Christian. Are they supportive or not? Could they be more so and if so, how?

2: Together read Ephesians 5:15-17: "Look therefore carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Discuss what it means to redeem the time online. How might redeeming the time influence what we see and communicate online, the information we internalize, and how it impacts our view of God, Creation, Self, and scholarship?

Nov 9 - (optional) Honors event: "The Importance of Being Earnest," The Lamb's Players Theater

Nov 12 - *Art and Faith*, chpts. 1-3

Nov 19 - *Art and Faith*, chpts. 4-6

Nov 26 - **NO CLASS**

Part III: Calling

Dec 3 - Honors event: A Conversation with Dr. Kerry Fulcher, PLNU President
The Vocation of a Christian Scholar, chpts 2-4

Dec 10 - *The Vocation of a Christian Scholar*, chpts. 5-7

Dec 19 - Final Exam (1:30-4pm)

Write a 3-5 page essay about Christian Scholarship. It should have a thesis, good organization, and arguments with evidence drawn from readings and notes. It should address the following issues: What is Christian scholarship? What are its main ideas and habits? How should we distinguish it from other traditions of teaching and learning? Finally, how might your understanding of Christian scholarship impact your approach to general education courses, your major field of study, and future profession? Be specific.