



School of Theology and Christian Ministry e

CMI 6012 Christian Formation

3 units

Spring Quad 1 2025

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| Meeting days: Intensive on campus, March 3-5 rest of class on-line | Instructor title and name: Rev. Dr. Rebecca Laird, Interim Dean, Professor of Christian Ministry and Practice |
| Meeting times: March 3-4 8:30-5pm March 5 8:30-noon | Phone: 619 849 2993 (office) |
| Meeting location: Intensive days, Smee 100 otherwise online | Email: rlaird@pointloma.edu |
| Final Project Due: Saturday, May 1, 2023 | Office location and hours: Smee 209, office hours by appointment by zoom. |
| Additional info: Each student will meet via zoom with Dr. Laird for 20 minutes to discuss call to ministry, vocational discernment, and ordination (if applicable) (CLO 3) | Additional info: |

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

A study of Christian formation including personal and congregational practices that contribute to mature faith formation and healthy ministerial personhood and practice.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Describe and practice some core disciplines that are utilized in a variety of Christian traditions including the Wesleyan-Holiness Tradition
2. Relate personal and corporate formation practices in daily life and ministry.
3. Articulate the nature of Christian vocation for all Christians and ordination for some.

COS LEARNING OUTCOMES

- CH 4 Ability to pursue Holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation and the classic Christian disciplines as means of grace.
- CH 5 Ability to locate, understand, and use resources for individual and corporate spiritual formation.
- CH 6 Ability to articulate his or her call from God to ministry as affirmed by the Church.
- CH 7 Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Smith, Gordon T., *Called to be Saints: An Invitation to Christian Maturity* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014 (paperback or ebook).

Thompson, Marjorie, *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*: Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005, 2014, revised edition (paperback or ebook).

Nouwen, Henri, Rebecca Laird and Michael Christensen, *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*, HarperOne, 2010 (paperback or ebook).

Swanson, David W., *Rediscipling the White Church: From Cheap Diversity to True Solidarity*, IVP, 2020 (paperback or ebook).

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 8 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

| <u>Sample</u> assignment distribution by percentage: | <u>Sample</u> grade scale: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Onsite days, participation 50 points<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 20 per full day○ 10 per half day● D-boards online 8 @ 25 200 points● Conversation w/prof via zoom 25● Reflection papers 4 @ 50 250 points<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lectio Divina○ Life-Centered Prayer○ Styles of Spiritual Direction○ Rule of life○ My call to ministry | <table><tr><td>A=93-100</td><td>C=73-76</td></tr><tr><td>A-=92-90</td><td>C-=70-72</td></tr><tr><td>B+=87-89</td><td>D+=67-69</td></tr><tr><td>B=83-86</td><td>D=63-66</td></tr><tr><td>B-=80-82</td><td>D-=60-62</td></tr><tr><td>C+=77-79</td><td>F=0-59</td></tr></table> | A=93-100 | C=73-76 | A-=92-90 | C-=70-72 | B+=87-89 | D+=67-69 | B=83-86 | D=63-66 | B-=80-82 | D-=60-62 | C+=77-79 | F=0-59 |
| A=93-100 | C=73-76 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A-=92-90 | C-=70-72 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B+=87-89 | D+=67-69 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B=83-86 | D=63-66 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B-=80-82 | D-=60-62 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C+=77-79 | F=0-59 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project paper | 200 points |
| Total possible points | 725 points |

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 using the below link to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California. <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>

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.

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 the [Academic and General Policies](#) in the Graduate Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

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.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU seeks to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. You'll find faith integration activities throughout this course. In addition there are resources for your Christian faith journey available on the Graduate Student Life webpage.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 help and support 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, it is 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

COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS

This is a hybrid course. We meet in person March 1-3 in person. The rest of the course is delivered online via Canvas.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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 the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic and General Policies](#) in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

At Point Loma Nazarene University, attendance is required at all scheduled classes. MACM courses are taught in the hybrid format, which means some class meetings will be face-to-face and some will be online. Attendance in the face-to-face classes is to be for the entire time of the class. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered a partial absence. A day of attendance in an online class is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission that adds value to the course as determined by the instructor.

Face-to-face Portion of the Hybrid course

In blended or hybrid courses, if a student misses one face-to-face class then the faculty member will send an email to the student and the Director of Student Success warning of attendance jeopardy. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If a student misses two face-to-face classes, the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration (VPAA) will initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without further advanced notice to the student. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of "F" and there will be no refund of tuition for that course.

Online Portion of the Hybrid Course

If a student misses two online classes (fails to contribute to a discussion board) during the course, then the faculty member will send an email to the student and the Director of Student Success warning of attendance jeopardy. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If a student misses three online classes (fails to contribute to a discussion board by the due date) during the course, then the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration (VPAA) will initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without further advanced notice to the student. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of "F" and there will be no refund of tuition for that course.

1 missed F2F class = warning

2 missed F2F classes = de-enrollment

2 missed online classes = warning

3 missed online classes = de-enrollment

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 require 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.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

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| | 1. | | |
| Week 1 | <p>Student Learning Outcomes</p> <p>This week you will...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce yourself to the class by writing a paragraph about your early formation. 2. Explain your theology of holiness as it relates to cultivating Christian maturity both yourself and those you serve (CLO 2). 3. Practice “lectio divina” and reflect on it (CLO 3). 4. Learn about Wesleyanism and Discipleship | <p>Required Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called to be Saints, Intro and Chp. 1 • Soul Feast, Chps. 1 & 2 <p>Required Listening or Watching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laird’s intro video: What language should we use to speak of God’s work in us? • John Wesley and Discipleship by Sam Barber, The Holiness Today podcast <p>Assignments Due this Week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce yourself ○ Cultivating Theological Maturity • Reflection Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doing Lectio Divina | |
| Week 2 | <p>Student Learning Outcomes</p> <p>This week you will...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore what union with God means (CLO 1) | <p>Required Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called to be Saints, Chp. 2 & 3 • Soul Feast, Chps. 3 & 6 | |

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| | 2. Practice Life-Centered Prayer (CLO 3) | Required Listening or Watching Dr Laird's Video on Articulating Call to Ministry Assignments Due this Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for a meeting with Dr. Laird via zoom. • Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Post a link to the leadership/ordination requirements for your church or denomination. Write a paragraph detailing your sense of call. • Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Seeking Union with Christ • Reflection Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Life Centered Prayer (Examen) | |
| Week 3 | Student Learning Outcomes This week you will... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe distinctive marks of a person has has a mature faith in Christ (CLO 2) 2. Consider Spiritual Direction | Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called to be Saints, Chp. 3 & 4 • Soul Feast, Chp 7 Assignments Due this Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Describe a person who is mature in Christ • Reflection Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Styles of Spiritual Direction | |
| Week 4 Easter Week | Student Learning Outcomes This week you will... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect on the place of hospitality and | Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called to be Saints, Chp. 5 & 6, appendix A • Soul Feast, Chp. 4 & 8 | |

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| | <p>worship in cultivating social holiness</p> | <p>Assignment Due D Board</p> <p>After reading the assigned reading in Soul Feast, refer back to "Exclusion and Inclusion" in Spiritual Formation by Nouwen and respond to this question: How do practices of hospitality and worship define who is welcome in the circle (Christian gathering)?</p> <p>Reflection Paper: Define your own rule of life to the end of the year. What will you do (practices) daily, monthly and as needed to cultivate your life with God?</p> | |
| <p>Week 5</p> | <p>Student Learning Outcomes</p> <p>This week you will...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect on the role of race in Christian discipleship in the USA | <p>Required Reading Rediscipling the White Church, Chps. 1-3.</p> <p>Assignments Due D Board</p> <p>Identify the racial makeup of your local congregation, community (and denomination, if any) How do these statistics intersect with the author's call to rediscipling? What is the greatest challenge and opportunity for rediscipling in your own context?</p> <p>See www.thearda.com for general demographic information. Information on Nazarene congregations can be found at https://nazarene.org/research</p> <p>Reflection paper: My call to ministry. Write a 2 page summary of your call to ministry. Cite scripture, identify your gifts and at least</p> | |

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| | | one key experience that affirmed your call to ministry by others. | |
| Week 6 | This week you will.... 1. Pick a practice to assess and think about implementing in your local church or faith community. | Required Reading Rediscipling the White Church, Chps, 4-10 Assignments Due D Board Pick two of the practices described in chapters 4-10 and imagine how they might be implemented in your local church. | |
| Week 7 | This week you will... 1. Outline a plan for implementing a multi-week spiritual formation plan in your local church of faith community. | Assignment Due: 1. Offer peer reviews to others 2. Submit your Final Paper | |
| Week 8 | On Campus Intensive | Student Learning Outcomes, This week you will.... 1. Engage in group spiritual formation practices (CLO 2) 2. Analyze a case study of a local church's faith formation practices | |

Intensive on-campus days, March 3-5 Schedule

Monday, March 3

8:30-5pm Group Spiritual Formation Practices

- Visio Divina “From Illusion to Prayer”
- Group Spiritual Direction
- Walking prayer (Explore the [labyrinth locator](#) if you are a distance student)
- Art as an expression of community formation
- Discernment practices

Tuesday, March 4

8:30-5pm Case study of a local church’s formational ministry (Emmaus Church, Lincoln, CA)

- The call
- The formation of leaders (zoom call with the staff of Emmaus Church)
- The context
- The plan
- Assessing the good
- Sharing of formational plans in small groups

Wednesday, March 5

8:30-noon

- Analysis of the case study
- Wrap up