Reuben Welch School of Theology and Christian Ministry

PHL2001-1 – Introduction to Philosophy

3 Units
Spring 2025
TR 9:30-10:45 am
Rohr 108
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 5, 10:30-1 pm

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Dr. Eric J. Morelli
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Office location and hours:	BAC 120 or Bobby B's, TR by appt.

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

A historical survey of selected philosophical ideas, systems, and methods, especially as these have developed in Western civilization.

What is myth? What is enlightenment? In what ways might our thinking and living be mythical? What would it mean for us to become more enlightened? In this course we will study the history and engage in the practice of philosophy as that which mediates the transition from myth to metaphysics. We will examine philosophically certain obsessions of mythic consciousness to gain insight into ourselves, our world, and the ongoing pursuit of wisdom.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- *discern* the nature of philosophical inquiry and its relation to everyday living (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *pursue* the fundamental questions with which philosophers are concerned (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *interpret and critique* key works and ideas in the history of philosophy (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *demonstrate* competence in philosophical reflection in general and in relation to the history of philosophy and the conduct of life (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final).

General Education Learning Outcomes

GELO #1d: Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions

Assessment: Signature Assignment: Anselm's Ontological Argument: Students must state clearly St. Anselm's argument for God's existence from Chapter 2 of *Proslogion*).

Required Texts

Adorno, Theodor. *The Stars Down to Earth and Other Essays on the Irrational in Culture*. London:
Routledge, 2002.

Augustine, St. *Confessions*. Translated by Henry Chadwick. Oxford: OUP, 2008.

Curd, Patricia, Ed. *A Presocratics Reader*. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2011.

Descartes, Rene. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Third Edition. Translated by Donald Cress.
Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.

Dodds, E.R. *Greeks and the Irrational*. New Edition. Oakland: U of California P, 2011.

Plato. *Five Dialogues*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Second Edition. Edited by John Cooper.
Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002.

Additional readings and materials will be distributed on Canvas.

All supplemental materials posted on Canvas (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Recommended Study Resources

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. https://iep.utm.edu/.

Morelli, Mark D. *Self-Possession: Being-at-Home in Conscious Performance*. Second Edition. Los
Angeles: Encanto Editions, 2019.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. https://plato.stanford.edu/.

Class Decorum

To show respect to your fellow classmates, enhance participation, and avoid disruption, except in cases of emergency or in accordance with official accommodations, follow these rules:

Be on time
No gum, eating, drinking (except water or coffee)
No going in and out
No electronic devices (phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, etc.)
Engage in charitable and respectful dialogue:
Listen attentively
Restate your interlocutor's position in your own words before responding to ensure
you understand
Contribute relevantly and considerately to facilitate others' to participation

A breach of decorum will result in a warning. Repeated breaches will result in an absence, dismissal, or de-enrollment.

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.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence Policy
The use of Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT, etc.) is not permitted. The use of these tools will be treated as academic dishonesty.

Assessment and Grading
The grade breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	Weight
Attendance and Participation	10%
5 Quizzes	20%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Midterm	20%
Course Project	15%

Final	20%

The grade scale is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
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 Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam 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.

Incompletes and Late Assignments
All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Late assignments and incompletes will only be accepted and assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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.

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.

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.

Calendar

Week 1 An Introduction to Introduction to Philosophy
- T (1/13) Introductions
- R (1/15) A Definition of Philosophy (Canvas)

Week 2 Consciousness 1
- T (1/20) The Basic Commitment to the Basic Notions
- R (1/22) The Basic Moods and Modes of Conscious Performance – ***QUIZ 1***

Week 3 Consciousness 2
- T (1/27) The Basic Interests and Motifs
- R (1/29) The High Drama and Self-Possession

Week 4 Mythic Consciousness 1
- T (2/3) "Selected World Myths"; "The Mythic Mentality"; "The Axial Age" (Canvas); *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 13-29, 39-53
- R (2/5) *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 55-72, 101-108 – ***QUIZ 2***

Week 5 Mythic Consciousness 2
- T (2/10) Plato, *Five Dialogues:* "Apology," pp. 21-44
- R (2/12) Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave" (Canvas); Dodds, *Greeks and the*

Irrational: "The Fear of Freedom"

Week 6 God and the Gods 1

T (2/17) Akhenaten, "The Hymn to the Aten"; *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 31-38; Plato, "On the Gods" (Canvas)

R (2/19) St. Augustine, *Confessions* – ***QUIZ 3***

Week 7 God and the Gods 2

T (2/24) St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"; St. Thomas Aquinas, "Five Ways" (Canvas)

R (2/26) Lonergan, "Metaphysics, Mystery, and Myth" (Canvas)

Week 8 Midterm

T (3/3) Review

R (3/5) ***MIDTERM***

Week 9 Spring Break

T (3/10) No Class

R (3/12) No Class

Week 10 Ghosts

T (3/17) Plato, *Five Dialogues*, pp. 107 (69e-70c), 116-122 (77d-84c); Aristotle, "Selections from *De Anima*" (Canvas)

R (3/19) Descartes, *Meditations*: 1 and 2; Hume, "Of Superstition and Enthusiasm"; "The Haunting of Jeremy Bentham" (Canvas)

Week 11 Astrology

3/23-25 EXTRA CREDIT: The Wiley Lectures with Dr. Catherine Keller

T (3/24) Dodds, *Greeks and the Irrational*: The Rise of Astrology; St. Augustine, *Confessions*; Adorno, *The Stars Down to Earth*, pp. 46-82

R (3/26) Adorno, *The Stars Down to Earth*, pp. 82-166, 172-179 – ***QUIZ 4***

Week 12 Aliens 1

T (3/31) *A Presocratics Reader*, p. 120 (Fr. 37); "Nicholas of Cusa on Aliens"; Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"; Losch, "Kant's Wager" (Canvas)

R (4/2) Easter Recess – No Class

Week 13 Aliens 2

T (4/7) Serling, "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" (Canvas)

R (4/9) DoD, "Report on the Historical Record of U.S. Government Involvement with UAP: Vol. 1," pp. 6-11, 36-39, 45; Lonergan, "Social Alienation" (Canvas)

Week 14 The Double 1

T (4/14) Heidegger, "The They"; Lonergan, "The Drifter

R (4/16) Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Canvas) – ***QUIZ 5***

Week 15 The Double 2

T (4/21) Fromm, “The Authoritarian Personality” (Canvas)
R (4/23) The School of Life, “Romanticism” (Canvas)

Week 16 The Hero

T (4/28) Joseph Campbell, “The Monomyth”; Hero’s Journey Diagram; Plato, “The Decent Man”; Plato, “The Myth of Er”; Aristotle, “The Magnanimous Man” (Canvas)

R (4/30) Lonergan, “Self-Transcendence”; The Cycle of Personal Development Diagram; The High Drama Diagram; Heroic Integrity Diagram (Canvas) – ***COURSE PROJECT DUE***

Finals Week

T (5/5) ***FINAL*** (10:30-1 pm)