



Reuben Welch School of Theology and Christian Ministry

PHL2011-4 – Ethics

3 Units

Spring 2025

TR 8-9:15 am

Taylor (T) 105

Final Exam: Thursday, May 7, 7:30-10 am

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Dr. Eric J. Morelli
Phone:	(619) 961-5272
Email:	emorelli@pointloma.edu
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

The study of right and wrong in principle, character, and conduct; practical moral issues analyzed from the basis of sound moral theory; characteristics of an adequate, consistent code of ethics.

What is a hero and what sorts of heroes are there? How are they heroic? Who are the heroes we admire, and what does that say about us? In this course we will explore the notion of the hero and the hero's journey in light of philosophic ethics. We will consider heroes, their relations to the community, their relations to us, and their relations to value. Can we integrate the diverse sorts of heroism? How can we answer the call and become the heroes of our own stories?

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- *discern* the nature of ethical self-knowledge and its relation to everyday living (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *appropriate* the basic questions with which ethicists are concerned (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *interpret and critique* key works and ideas in the history of ethics (Assessment: participation, quizzes, midterm, course project, final);
- *demonstrate competence* in ethical reflection in general and in relation to the history of ethics 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

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by Terence Irwin. Third Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2019.

———. *Poetics*. Translated by Stephen Halliwell. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina P, 1987.

Campbell, Joseph. *On the Hero's Journey*. Novato, CA: New World Library, 2025.

Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Translated by James W. Ellington. Third edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.

Kokkos, George. *Heroes of Philosophy*. Athens, Greece: George Kokkos, 2021.

McDonnell, Patrick. *The Super Hero's Journey*. New York: Abrams ComicArts, 2023.

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*. 2nd 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 unless expressly authorized (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' 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 Ethics

- T (1/13) Introductions
- R (1/15) A Definition of Ethics (Canvas)

Week 2 The Hero and the Hero's Journey 1

- T (1/20) Campbell, *On the Hero's Journey*
- R (1/22) Aristotle, *Poetics*; Richard Lattimore, "Achilleus and Odysseus" (Canvas) – **QUIZ 1**

Week 3 The Hero and the Hero's Journey 2

- T (1/27) Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. I Ch. 1 and 4-5; "The Polymorphism of Consciousness" (Canvas)
- R (1/29) "Value Hierarchies in Plato, Scheler, and Lonergan" (Canvas)

Week 4 Heroes of the Community 1

- T (2/3) Florence Nightingale, *Notes on Nursing*; Ali "I Am the Greatest"; "I Am Still the Greatest"; Malala Yousafzai, "Nobel Lecture" (Canvas)
- R (2/5) Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. I, Ch. 7 and 13 and Bk. II, Ch. 5-9
– **QUIZ 2**

Week 5 Heroes of the Community 2

- T (2/10) Truth, "1851 Woman's Rights Conventions Speech"; Thunberg, "U.N. Climate Action Summit Speech" (Canvas)
- R (2/12) Sullenberger, "We Saved 155 Lives on the Hudson" (Canvas)
- Week 6 Heroes of the Mind 1**
- T (2/17) Kokkos, *The Heroes of Greek Philosophy*; Plato, "Socrates' Apology" (Canvas)
- R (2/19) Galileo, *The Assayer* (Canvas); Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. X, Ch. 6-8 – **QUIZ 3**
- Week 7 Heroes of the Mind 2**
- T (2/24) Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*, *On the Origin of Species*; Einstein, "The World as I See It" (Canvas)
- R (2/26) Frankl, "Finding Meaning in Difficult Times"; Lonergan, "The Intellectual Pattern of Experience" (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 Heroes of the Imagination 1**
- T (3/17) Boethius, "Fundamentals of Music"; Beethoven, "Dedication Letter," "The Heiligenstadt Testament" (Canvas)
- R (3/19) Enos, "The Real Ambassadors at 60"; Huyghe, "On Art" (Canvas)
- Week 11 Heroes of the Imagination 2**
- 3/23-25 EXTRA CREDIT: The Wiley Lectures with Dr. Catherine Keller**
- T (3/24) Michelangelo, "Selected Poems"; Eliot, "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists" (Canvas)
- R (3/26) "Art on 60 Minutes: Ai Weiwei" (Canvas) – **QUIZ 4**
- Week 12 Easter Recess**
- T (3/31) "Selections from the Gospel of Matthew"; St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" (Canvas)
- R (4/2) Easter Recess – No Class
- Week 13 Heroes of Spirit 1**
- T (4/7) St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"; St. Joan of Arc, "Letter to the King of England" (Canvas)
- R (4/9) St. John of the Cross, *Dark Night of the Soul*; Lonergan, "The Law of the Cross" (Canvas)
- Week 14 Heroes of Spirit 2**

- T (4/14) MLK, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"; Chavez, "The Mexican-American and the Church" (Canvas)
- R (4/16) St. Mother Teresa, "The Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech" (Canvas); Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* – **QUIZ 5**

Week 15 Super Heroes

- T (4/21) Plato, "The Ring of Gyges," "On Having Great Power"; Nietzsche, "The Superman" (Canvas); McDonnell, *The Super Hero's Journey*
- R (4/23) McDonnell, *The Super Hero's Journey*

Week 16 The Hero of Your Own Story

- T (4/28) Plato, "The Decent Man," "The Myth of Er"; Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*:
"The Magnanimous Man"
- 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

- R (5/7) **FINAL** (7:30-10 pm)