



Point Loma Nazarene University  
Department of Undergraduate Psychology

**Psychology 4099 (Fall 2025)**  
**Research in Psychology (4 units)**

**Meeting Days: Fridays**  
**Meeting Times: 2:30pm-4:00pm**  
**Meeting Location: Culbertson Conference Room**

Instructor: Joel T. Sagawa, Ph.D.

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To schedule an appointment, use this link: [Dr. Sagawa's Office Hours](#)

**University Mission Statement:** *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 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.*

**Catalog Description:**

This course is open to students of proven ability. Designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate ability to write in APA format.
2. Develop an understanding of the relevant literature in reference to a topic of study.
3. Formulate research questions and/hypotheses and implement research design.
4. Prepare survey items and/or stimulus materials.
5. Collect data and use statistics to analyze data.
6. Interpret data and develop abstract for potential submission to a conference.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Participation: Participation is required and is figured into your final grade.

2. Task Assignments: Students are expected to complete several task assignments per week. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.
3. Abstract: Students are expected to develop an abstract that is ready for submission to a conference for a potential presentation.

### **Grading:**

- Participation (200 points) 50%
- Task Assignments (100 points) 25%
- Abstract (100 points) 25%

**Total (400 points) 100%**

### **Percentage Score**

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%
	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%
			F = 59.9% or less

### **Course Policies:**

1. Attendance: Students may choose to miss a total of 3 lab meetings for any reason throughout the semester. However, students risk being de-enrolled in the event that they miss 4 lab meetings or more (i.e., if absences exceed 20 percent of class meetings).
2. Papers: All papers are to be computer generated, 10-12 font, double spaced, referenced using APA style.

### **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.

### **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 1-4 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 37.5-150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

### **Final Exam Policy**

Successful completion of this class may require 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.

### **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. See the [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **Use of Technology**

In order to be successful in the online 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. Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

### **Copyright Policy:**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside of the class may violate the law. More information on the [PLNU Copyright Policy](#) can be found online.

### **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 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.

### **Academic Accommodations:**

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](mailto: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 onset 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. Students may find additional support through other campus offices as well including the [Office of Spiritual Development](#), the [Tutorial Center](#), and/or the [Wellness Center](#).

## **Week 1 – Introduction to the Moral Psychology Lab**

### ***Week 1 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop an understanding of the relevant literature in reference to moral psychology.
2. Formulate research questions and/or hypotheses.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 1 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 1

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 2 – Designing a Research Study**

### ***Week 2 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop an understanding of the relevant literature in reference to moral psychology.
2. Formulate research questions and/or hypotheses.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 2 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 2

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 3 – Designing a Research Study**

### ***Week 3 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop an understanding of the relevant literature in reference to moral psychology.
2. Formulate research questions and/or hypotheses.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 3 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 3

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 4 – Designing a Research Study**

### ***Week 4 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Design a research study.
2. Create survey items and/or stimulus materials (if needed).

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 4 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 4

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 5 – Designing a Research Study**

### ***Week 5 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Finalize research hypotheses.
2. Design a research study.
3. Create survey items and/or stimulus materials (if needed).
3. Complete IRB proposal (if needed).

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 5 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 5

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 6 – Designing a Research Study**

### ***Week 6 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Write up a methods section based on the research study you designed.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 6 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 6

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 7 – Collecting and Analyzing Data**

### ***Week 7 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Collect data (if needed).
2. Analyze data (if data is collected).

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 7 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 7

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 8 – Collecting and Analyzing Data**

### ***Week 8 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Collect data (if needed).
2. Analyze data (if data is collected).

### ***Tasks***

1. Continue data collection and/or analysis this week.
  - No Class – Fall Break

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 9 – Collecting and Analyzing Data**

### ***Week 9 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Collect data (if needed).
2. Finalize data analysis

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.

- Class 8 Participation

***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 8

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

**Week 10 – Writing an Abstract*****Week 10 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Write an abstract for a potential conference presentation.
  - Write up methods section for abstract.
  - Write up results section for abstract (if data analysis is completed).

**Tasks**

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 9 Participation

**Required Readings and Associated Assignments**

- Task Assignments 9

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

**Week 11 – Writing an Abstract**

**Week 11 Overview**

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Write an abstract for a potential conference presentation.
  - Write up introduction section of abstract.
  - Write up methods section for abstract.
  - Write up results section for abstract.
  - Write up discussion section of abstract.

**Tasks**

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 10 Participation

**Required Readings and Associated Assignments**

- Task Assignments 10

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 12 – Writing an Abstract**

### **Week 12 Overview**

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need.

Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Finalized abstract for a potential conference presentation.
2. Submit abstract to a conference (if completed).

***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 11 Participation

***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 11
- Abstract

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

**Week 13 – Designing a Follow Up Study**

### ***Week 13 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop a greater understanding of the relevant literature in reference to moral psychology.
2. Formulate follow up research questions and/or hypotheses.

### ***Tasks***

1. Continue independent reading and contemplate future research questions.
  - No Class – Thanksgiving Break

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 14 – Developing a Poster Presentation**

### ***Week 14 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop methods section for poster presentation.
2. Develop results section for poster presentation.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 12 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 12

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.

## **Week 15 – Developing a Poster Presentation**

### ***Week 15 Overview***

As this course is designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project, the content covered in each class session will vary depending on student need. Specific task assignments will be determined following each lab meeting in order to allow for assignments to be tailored according to project requirements.

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Develop methods section for poster presentation.
2. Develop results section for poster presentation.

### ***Tasks***

1. Attend and participate in the moral psychology lab meeting.
  - Class 13 Participation

### ***Required Readings and Associated Assignments***

- Task Assignments 13

\*This week's activities and assignments will take approximately 10 hours.