POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	***Reuben Welch School of Theology & Christian Ministry*** **THE 3060 Christian Life as Vocation** **3 Units**
SPRING 2026	

Meeting days: T/TH	**Instructor title and name:** **Rev. Dr. Esteban Trujillo, D.Min.,** *University Chaplain/Adjunct Professor*
Meeting times: 9:30-10:45AM	**Phone:** 619-849-2542
Meeting location: Taylor 312	**Email:** etrujil1@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Tuesday, 5/5/2026 **10:30-1:00PM**	**Office location/hours:** Nicholson Commons 311, 8 a.m-4:30p.m.
Additional info:	**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.

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 study of the theology and practice of vocation as they have developed in the biblical and Christian traditions. Students will be led to reflect on career and professional life in a Christian way. The course will also study Christian ethical ways of living in the world. BIB1001 or BIB 1002 prerequisite

PROGRAM AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development. (GELO 3)
2. Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition. (GELO 3)

3. Appreciate an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life. (GELO 3)
4. Display nuances Christian faith offers to the understanding and practice of compassion and service. (GELO 2c)
5. Participate in a variety of Christian practices that help students grow spiritually. (GELO 3)
6. Develop and articulating an understanding of vocation and calling. (GELO 1a)

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES
Link to GE courses and corresponding GELO's:
https://assessment.pointloma.edu/academic-assessment/general-education/assessment-plan/

1. Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication. (GELO 1a)
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts. (GELO 2c)
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy. (GELO 3)

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES
Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.
All supplemental materials posted on this course site (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.

- Heath, Elaine A. *Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way.* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1501835643.
- Jethani, Skye. *With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2011. ISBN 978-1595553799.
- Nouwen, Henri. *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2013. ISBN 978-0061686160.
- Warren, Tish H. *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred practices in everyday life.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0830846238.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

Reading & Discussion Board (20 each x 10)	200 points
Means of Grace Practices (50 each x 5)	250 points
Vocational and Calling Paper	100 points
Theology Art Project	150 points
Attendance	100 points
Midterm and Final Exam	200 points
Total Points	**1000 points**

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—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. Any work submitted past the due date and time will receive a minimum deduction of 5 points and maximum of half the point value of the assignment. Assignments are posted on Canvas for 1 week and are automatically taken down after that time period. Once the assignment is taken down, a "zero" grade will be given for that assignment.

SPIRITUAL CARE
Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.
If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the Office of Student Life and Formation.

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 distance education outside California.

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.*

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 (AI) POLICY
You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

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 619-849-2533). 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. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate. 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 accommodations.

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. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

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 at pointloma.edu/title-ix. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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.

LOMA WRITING CENTER

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see Loma Writing Center webpage or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: https://plnu.mywconline.com/
- Website: https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

LOMABOOKS INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials. For more information about **LomaBooks,** please go: HERE

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, terms like "man" or "mankind" or the pronoun "he," should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead "people," "humanity," "humans," and "he or she" better acknowledge women as full persons.

The use of inclusive language is now prevalent, even expected, throughout most sectors of our society (e.g., academia, government, business, religious organizations). Further, inclusive language is very often a more accurate and fair representation of the intended meaning of a person's communicative content. As such, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language in all written work. In addition, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language during classroom discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

<u>* Please include name, course, date on the left-hand corner and a title centered (i.e. Reading Report # 1) on a Word Document. Include references for all quotes used.</u>

1. **Reading and Discussion (20 points x 10=200 points).** You are to complete **<u>all 10</u>** of the reading reports, each **250-word minimum essays** in response to the discussion questions raised from the assigned reading, and then you are to post it on Canvas. Essays are graded based on the rubric included on Canvas. Also, you are to be prepared to discuss the readings in class.

2. **Christian Practices: Means of Grace (50 points x 5 = 250 points).** All upper division theology (THE) Foundational Exploration courses require students to reflect on Elaine Heath's book, *The Five Means of Grace*, and participate in Christian practices or "means of grace" that the author discusses in the book. At the end of each module, you are to engage in the assigned practice. **<u>All Means of Grace assignments are a minimum of 500 words</u>**.
   - **Module 1-Searching the Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*).** See Canvas for instructions.
   - **Module 2-Prayer (*Examen*).** See Canvas for instructions.
   - **Module 3-Lord's Supper (*Worship & Eucharist*)** --Attend a worship service outside of your tradition, preferably with a different cultural group and write at 500-word response that addresses the following areas:
     - **i.** Describe the service you attended (include worship space and symbols) and compare it to your own church tradition or PLNU chapel based on aspects of preparation, singing, prayer, preaching, sacraments, and interaction of congregants.
     - **ii.** Conclude with what stepping out of your pattern of worship taught you about Christian worship.
     - **iii.** Take a photo of yourself attending the service and copy it into your paper.
   - **Module 4- Fasting (*Rest & Sabbath*)**- You are to take an intentional time of Fasting in one of the following ways:
     - **i.** Technology Fast-you take one day (24 hours) and do not engage in any email, phone, or texting.
     - **ii.** Solitude-you take one day (24 hours) to be alone and not talk or engage in conversation with anyone. This is a time to rest and relax.
     - **iii.** Exercise-you exercise three times during a week as part of your self-care.

   Write a 500-word essay describing how this Sabbath rest improved your sense of well-being, reduced your anxiety, and helped you connect with God.

   - **Module 5-Christian Conferencing (*Rule of Life*)**
     *****SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT***** Students will complete a rule of life exercise and reflect upon it. Show evidence of engagement with scripture, prayer (acts of devotion) and service (works of mercy.) The Rule of Life is a document that summarizes principles and practices that will deepen your relationship with Christ, your sense of vocation and calling, and help you grow in personal and social holiness. *The Rule of life is to be 500 words*. The Rule of life instructions are provided on canvas.

   You have a great deal freedom in discerning how you will do this, as long as it connects with the explanations of the practice in Heath's book. You are to complete these on your own, or in a group setting and then write a **500-word essay** talking about your experience.

   You might find it helpful to personally journal on those questions and simply write a concise version of your responses when writing your essay.

The questions could be as follows:

1. Which means of grace did you practice this week?
2. Why do the means of grace matter to Christian life and faith?
3. What did you observe, feel, experience, through this practice?
4. How did you feel about this experience and is this a practice that you might incorporate in your spiritual life?

*As can be seen through this assignment, this course will include practices of Christian spirituality. While the professor does hope you find these meaningful for your own reflection and meaning-making, the professor does not assume that everyone at PLNU is a Christian. If you do not feel comfortable engaging in Christian practices, please know that the professor is willing to discern alternative options for you. Simply inform the professor during the first week of class and set up a meeting to discuss alternatives.

3. Vocation and Calling Paper (100 points). Since this class is about how you discern your sense of vocation it is important to be able to articulate you sense of vocation and calling as it relates to your gifts and abilities. You are to write a **750 to 1000-word essay** regarding your sense of Vocation and calling. As you write the paper you might consider responding to some of the following prompts:

1. What is your major, and how did you find your way to PLNU?

In what ways do you see your faith intersecting with your career plans?

2. What insights have you gained from reading and practicing the "means of grace" (**Heath's book Chapter 1: *Means of Grace are Spiritual Practices***)?
3. What kind of life do you sense God calling you to live?
4. In what ways are you embracing this call or embracing a meaningful life? **<u>DUE by 1159PM on FEB. 10TH</u>**

4. **Theology Art Project (150 points)**. There are four components to the Theology Art Project: (1) your original creation, (2) your artist's memo, (3) your presentation video to be shared in class with your art piece, and (4) your reflection on three classmates' projects. A rubric will be provided. For a description of the four components, see the explanations below.

- **<u>Your original creation</u>.** You will submit *your own original creation* that substantively *expresses* and builds upon a practice/sacrament from the Harrison Warren book (example: Baptism, Liturgy, Confession, Passing of Peace, Community, etc.) This project can be done in several ways (i.e., painting, poster, poetry, story, short film, song, music video, podcast, game, app, built structure, machine, organizational chart, business plan, spreadsheet, concept illustration, food, clothing, etc.), and is to represent how you view this particular practice/sacrament in relationship to your sense of vocation. If your original creation can be created digitally, you will submit the digital file containing the project. Be prepared to share your video presentation and/or art project in class.
  While it is true that many do not feel as if they are creative people, the theological reality is that every human being is created in the image of God—the Creator of all things. We are created by a creative God as divinely creative creatures. As you prepare for this assignment, feel free to try your hand at something new. However, don't assume creativity is limited to a stereotypical box. Take a moment to reflect on the various ways your passion, skills, talents and sense of wonder lead you to create.
- **<u>Your artist's memo</u>**. Along with your original creation, you must submit an "artist's memo" that explains your intentions, goals, and purposes for the project's composition. Your explanation in the "artist's memo" needs to make it very clear that you understand the theological theme and that your original creation has been created in a thoughtful and careful manner. **<u>The length of the "artist's memo" is 500 words.</u>** The "artist's memo" needs to answer the following questions:

1. What is the significance of this piece?
2. How does it substantively relate to a practice/sacrament in the Harrison Warren book?
3. How does this practice/sacrament relate to your sense of vocation and calling?

- **Your video presentation.** You will post a 2-3-minute video presentation of your original creation. In this video, you need to expound upon content in your artist's memo. The video presentation needs to be **posted by 11:59pm on MONDAY, APR. 27TH.**

- **Your reflection on three peers' projects.** You will respond to three of your peers' presentations by replying to their posts with your answers to the following questions:

  1. What did you appreciate or find intriguing about this project?
  2. What questions do you have for the artist?

  Your reflections on three peers' projects need to be **posted by 11:59pm by THURSDAY, APR. 30TH.**

5. **Midterm and Final Exam (100 points each).**
6. **Attendance Grade (100 points).** Based on percentage of days marked present in class. Excused absences through the Provost's office/EAC do not count as a deduction.

DATE	COURSE CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
Module 1	**Exploring Christian Vocation (JAN. 13-27)**	
Jan. 13	God's Calling and Vocation in Scripture	Nouwen, Pt. 1
Jan. 15	Defining Christian Vocation	Nouwen, Pt. 3 ***Reading Report #1 Due***
Jan 20	Discernment & Prayer	Warren Ch. 1
Jan. 22	Scripture as Formation	Warren, Ch. 5 ***Reading Report #2***
Jan. 27	Means of Grace: Searching Scripture (*Lectio Divina*)	Heath, Ch. 2, ***Due Means of Grace: Searching the Scripture- Lectio Divina due***
Module 2	**Christian Life as Loving God (JAN. 29-FEB. 17)**	
Jan. 29	Triune God & Humanity Pt. 1	Jethani, Ch. 1
Feb. 3	Triune God & Humanity Pt. 2	Warren, Ch. 2
Feb. 5	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, *Guest Lecturer*	Heath, Ch. 1, Jethani. Ch. 2
Feb. 10	***STUDY DAY***	***Vocational & Calling Paper Due***
Feb. 12	Created in the Image of God (*Imago Dei*)	Jethani, Ch. 3 ***Reading Report #3 Due***
Feb. 17	Means of Grace: Prayer *(Examen)*	Heath, Ch 1, ***Due Means of Grace-Prayer Due***
Module 3	**Christian Life as Worship (FEB. 19-MAR. 17)**	
Feb. 19	Church Calendar and Lent	Jethani Ch. 4, Warren, Ch. 4 Reading ***Report #4***
Feb. 24	*Guest Lecturer:* Inward Practices (Prayer & Meditation)	Jethani, Ch. 5 ***Reading Report #5 Due***
Feb. 26	MID TERM REVIEW	***STUDY!***
Mar. 3	**MID TERM EXAM**	
Mar. 5	***NO CLASS***	Warren, Ch.10; ***Reading Report #6***

MAR. 9-13	**SPRING BREAK**	
Mar. 17	Means of Grace: Fasting *(Rest & Sabbath)*	Heath, Ch. 4, ***Means of Grace: Fasting/ Sabbath Due***
Module 4	**Christian Life as Discipleship (MAR. 19-APR. 7)**	
Mar. 19	Reclaiming Sabbath Rest/Self Care	Jethani, Ch. 6 ***Reading Report #7 Due***
Mar. 24	***Wiley Lectures***	Jethani, Ch. 7 ***Reading Report #8 Due***
Mar. 26	Sanctification and Holiness	Jethani, Ch. 8, ***Reading Report #9 Due***
Mar. 31	Outward Practices	Warren. 9, Jethani, Ch. 9, ***Reading Report # 10 Due***
APR. 2-6	**EASTER BREAK**	*HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!*
Apr. 7	Christian Life of Hope	Warren Ch. 11
Module 5	**Christian Life in Community (APR. 9-APR. 23)**	
Apr. 9	Means of Grace: Lord's Supper *(Practices of Worship & Eucharist)*	Heath, Ch. 3, ***Means of Grace: Worship Service Due***
Apr. 14	*Guest Lecturer:* Aligning Career & Vocation	
Apr. 16	Christian Community and Ecclesiology	
Apr. 21	Means of Grace: Christian Conferencing (*Rule of Life)*	Heath Ch. 5, ***Means of Grace: Rule of Life Due***
Apr. 23	Practice of Awe & Wonder	
Apr. 28	Theology Art Project Demonstration	***Theology Art Project Due by MON, APR . 27 at 1159PM.***
Apr. 30	**FINAL EXAM REVIEW**	***3 Peer Reviews Due by 1159PM***
May 5	**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, 5/5 10:30-1:00PM**	

7. Extra Credit There will be various extra credit opportunities this semester, each for 5 extra credit points. **10 points maximum can be added to your grade and will be applied to the final exam.**

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY FOR FINAL EXAM:

WILEY LECTURES: The 2025-2026 H. Orton Wiley Lectures in Theology:
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Catherine Keller, *Professor of Constructive Theology at The Theological School of Drew University*
Dates: March 23-25, 2026
Series Title: "Theology at the Intersection of All That Is: Creation, Ecology, Gender, and Hope"

Public Lectures:
Lecture 1: "Creation: Cosmos, Connection, Creativity
*Monday March 23, 2026 11:00-11:50am, Crill Performance Hall
Lecture 2: "Ecology: What's Coming?"
*Monday March 23, 2026 1:30-2:20pm, Crill Performance Hall
Lecture 3: "Gender: Tangles of Sex, Bodies, Politics"
***Tuesday March 24, 2026 9:30-10:20am, Crill Performance Hall (*Offered during our class time*)**
Lecture 4: "Hope: Embracing Planetude"
*Wednesday March 25, 2026 8:30-9:20am, Crill Performance Hall