



## PHL 211 (3 UNITS): ETHICS (GE)

Section: 02  
Time: MW 1:30-2:45

Spring 2019  
Location: T 105

Professor: Dr. Eric J. Morelli  
Office: BAC 120  
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 and by appointment  
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Final Exam: Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:30-4

### 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

*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 should I do? Who should I become? Am I really free? Can I objectively distinguish the good from the bad, the happy from the unhappy, the right from the wrong, the more from the less valuable, and the valuable from the worthless? Is there a way to orient myself in the midst of my interests and activities that I can follow no matter what the circumstances? In this course we will grapple with these and other pressing questions that arise for us, if usually only on the margins of our consciousness, whenever we seriously consider the fact that we are not just being but doing and, by doing, making ourselves and our worlds. We will get to know major, historical approaches to these questions—eudaimonistic, virtue, deontological, consequentialist, utilitarian, and

axiological—and will explore the way in which they arose as successive attempts to answer the questions more accurately and completely.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Second edition. Translated with an Introduction, Notes, and Glossary by Terence Irwin. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1999.

Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals with On a Supposed Right to Lie Because of Philanthropic Concerns*. Third edition. Translated by James W. Ellington. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1993.

Mill, J.S. *Utilitarianism and the 1868 Speech on Capital Punishment*. Second edition. Edited by George Sher. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 2001.

Scheler, Max. *Ressentiment*. New Edition. Translated by Lewis B. Coser and William W. Holdheim. Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2007.

Additional readings will be distributed on CANVAS.

#### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

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

- *describe and explain*, in outline, the history of ethics and, in detail, the ethical theories of several of its pivotal figures;
- *analyze and criticize* ethical texts, situations, questions, reasonings, and positions;
- *discern* the ethical dimension of everyday life, its invitations to ethical inquiry, and its calls to heroic, ethical living;
- *apply* their ethical inquiry and study of the history of ethics to historical and current events and their experiences and lives within and beyond the academy;
- *inquire, speak, converse, and write* with philosophic and ethical significance and precision.

#### GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELOs)

*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 cultures.*

Learning: Informed by Our Faith in Christ

Students will:

- *effectively express* ideas and information to others through oral and written communication individually and in groups (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);
- *examine, critique and synthesize* information to arrive at reasoned conclusions. (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussion, group work, reading assignments, reflection papers, essay exams, and a term paper);
- *demonstrate* the effective and responsible use of information from a variety of sources (Assessment: reflection papers, and term paper);

Growing: In a Christ-Centered Faith Community

Students will:

- *understand and develop a greater respect for* the diversity of human nature and the array of philosophic interests, concerns, questions, and positions (Assessment: group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);
- *examine* the complexity of human nature and philosophy in light of the reconciling work of God in Christ (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);

Serving: In a Context of Christian Faith

Students will:

- *engage* in acts of devotion and works of mercy informed by the Christian scriptures and tradition, rooted in local congregations, and expressed as love of God and neighbor in and beyond the classroom (experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, term paper).

#### ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Experiential, Integrative Assignments (IEAs); Group Activities; Reflection Papers:	30%
6 Quizzes:	25%
Midterm Essay Exam:	20%
Final Essay Exam:	25%

#### GRADING SCALE

A:	100-93	C+:	79-77	D-:	62-60
A-:	92-90	C:	76-73	F:	60-0
B+:	89-87	C-:	72-70		
B:	86-83	D+:	69-67		
B-:	82-80	D:	66-63		

### PAPER AND EXAM EXPECTATIONS

In reflection and term papers, students must adhere to the style, citation, and reference guidelines set out in the Chicago Manual of Style. Additionally, all papers must be double-spaced with 1-inch margins in 12-point Times New Roman font. Papers and exams will be graded for content, clarity, grammar, spelling, and formatting. The clear, accurate, and precise use of philosophic terms is especially important. In general, an A paper or exam will have proper spelling and grammar, be written clearly, exhibit a correct grasp of and serious engagement with the subject matter, and present the results of original philosophic inquiry.

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND INCOMPLETES

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session for which they are due—including assignments posted on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

### TECHNOLOGY

The use of electronic devices will not be permitted in class. Students are expected to bring a notebook, pen or pencil, and hard copies of the assigned texts to class. If a disability prevents a student from taking notes by hand, the Disability Resource Center may facilitate accommodations (See “PLNU Accommodations Policy” below).

### FINAL EXAM POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final on its scheduled day. According to the [Undergraduate Records](#) site, the final for this course will be on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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

#### PLNU ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

#### PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in 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. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

#### DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications, and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and

students are best served through respect for gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, and other personal characteristics.

#### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE STATEMENT

The School of Theology and Christian Ministries is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people often use language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the School strongly urges students to join faculty and staff in avoiding any sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and in writing.

#### CALENDAR

January	8	Introduction
	9	Group Activity Plato, <i>Republic</i> , ii 358e-360d (CANVAS)
	14	IEA Report Due Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , i 1-5 and 7-9 (pp. 1-5 and 7-12)
	16	Group Activity Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , i 13 and ii (pp. 16-30)
	23	Quiz Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , iii 1-5 (pp. 30-40)
	28	Group Activity Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , vi (pp. 86-99); review ii 7 (pp. 25-27); and skim iii 6-12, iv, and v (pp. 40-85)
	30	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , vii (pp. 99-119)
February	4	Reflection Paper Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , viii (pp. 119-137)
	6	Quiz Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , ix (pp. 137-153)
	11	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , x (pp. 153-171)

- 13 Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 1-5
- 18 Quiz  
Group Activity  
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 7-17
- 20 Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 19-29
- 25 IEA Report Due  
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 29-39
- 27 Midterm
- March 11 Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 39-48
- 13 IEA Report Due  
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 49-54
- 18 Group Activity  
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 54-62
- 20 Quiz  
IEA Report Due  
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 1-26
- 25 Group Activity  
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 27-34
- 27 IEA Report Due  
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 35-41
- April 1 Quiz  
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 42-64
- 3 Group Activity  
Deekens on Scheler (CANVAS)
- 8 Scheler, *Ressentiment*, pp. 19-36

- 10 Quiz  
Scheler, *Ressentiment*, pp. 36-49
- 15 Reflection Paper  
Scheler, *Ressentiment*, pp. 51-77
- 17 Scheler, *Ressentiment*, pp. 79-95
- 24 IEA Report Due  
Scheler, *Ressentiment*, pp. 97-125
- 29 Final