

Point Loma Nazarene University

ETHICS, RESPONSIBILLITY AND LOVE

PHL 381
Spring 2013
MW 1:30-2:45

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PLNU MISSION:

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will engage in the disciplined practice of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers.
2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy.
3. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide an adequate account of significant issues that relate to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop and widen an openness toward the pursuit of wisdom.
2. To examine the philosophical impact of the body as we consider the relation of the soul to the body.
3. To examine what it means for us to be human in light of what we have our being in or for –in light of what we love.
4. To examine significant texts in the history of philosophy on the topics of ‘ethics’/ ‘responsibility’/‘love’.
5. To compare and contrast ancient Greek notions of love with other notions.
6. To nurture creative and reflective thinking by reading significant primary texts within the western philosophical tradition.
7. To encounter significant and influential figures in the western philosophical tradition in order to reflect upon the nature of that tradition itself.
8. To introduce several philosophical issues found in the western philosophical tradition as they address directly and indirectly ethical formation.

9. To wrestle, and I mean wrestle, with these issues as they relate to our lives as we consider how we can be loving and ethical in light of our limitations and our dependence upon the source of ethicality itself.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS:

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set forth by the instructor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services with the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as required by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

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.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. *Plato's Symposium*. ISBN 087-22007-60
2. Søren Kierkegaard. *Works of Love*. ISBN-13: 978-0061713279
2. Emmanuel Levinas. *Ethics and Infinity* ISBN# 8207-0178-5
2. Jacques Derrida. *Of Hospitality*. ISBN# 0-8047-3406-2
3. Reading Packet to be purchased from Pat Jafry (\$tba.)

PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

1. We will be reading from some of the most significant **texts** in the history of western thought. It is vitally important that you become acquainted with the material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but *how* she or he makes you think. I want you to be thoughtful and critical of what each of the thinkers writes, as well as of what I say in class. A significant portion of your grade will be based upon the amount of reading you do. You will be asked to give a report each day on your reading progress (scale of 0-10). For example, an 8.5 means that you read carefully and thought about carefully 85% of the assigned reading for that day.

2. Regular and punctual **attendance** is required for the full benefit of this class. If you are late it is your responsibility to see me after class in order that your attendance may be recorded. Any three tardies will be recorded as one absence. Due to the size and nature of this class in particular, dialogue will be very important. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will be important. Therefore, *each* student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs (as well as the quality), along with attendance will be considered in your final grade. Each class you miss will severely

affect your participation grade. *You cannot pass the class* if you miss more than 6 class sessions. See the catalogue.

3. Throughout the term each of you will do one **in-class presentation**. If it is the first day discussing a figure, there should be a brief and general philosophical introduction to the figure covered during that session. Otherwise the introduction should cover the specific reading for the day. The presentation should mainly be an outline of the text. You should reference 8-12 significant portions of the text to be covered in class. You must provide a detailed outline and bibliography for each member of the class.
4. There will be 3 **Take-Home Exams/papers** due throughout the semester. Each of the exams will cover the material just prior to the reception of the exam (including the material covered on the day of the reception of the exam). You will have one (or one and a half) week(s) to complete each assignment. You absolutely may not use outside sources for the exams. Any group work prior to your reception of the exam is encouraged. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or (more likely) failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.
5. There will be a **final exam** on Wednesday, May 1st from 1:00-3:00. It will be reflective and comprehensive relating the final reading to the course as a whole. It will be essay format.
6. The **grades** are based on all of these mentioned assignments. All outside assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any late assignments will be reduced a full letter grade per class day and will not be accepted at all after one week (if it's due Thursday it can not be turned in any later than the following Thursday). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or (more likely) failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.

Presentation	12%
Reading	15%
Take-Home #1	18%
Take-Home #2	18%
Take-Home #3	18%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>19%</u>
Total	100%

100-94% A	79-77% C+	63-60% D-
93-90% A-	76-74% C	59-0% F
89-87% B+	73-70% C-	
86-84% B	69-67% D+	
83-80% B-	66-64% D	

GUIDELINE:

- 1/8 Introduction to Course
1/9 *Symposium* pp.1-10
1/14 *Symposium* pp.10-31*
1/16 *Symposium* pp. 31-42*
1/21 MLKj Day –No class (read Letter from a Birmingham jail)
1/23 *Symposium* pp. 42-54*
1/28 Aristotle NE pp. 1825-1852*
1/30 Arendt pp.36-44*
2/4 Arendt pp. 45-76*
2/6 Kant pp. 109-131*
2/11 Attend Wiley Lecture and write a brief response
2/13 Kant pp. 131-164* **Exam I Due**
2/18 Kojève pp. 524-541*
2/20 Kierkegaard *Works of Love* pp. 19-50*
2/25 Kierkegaard pp. 50-75*
2/27 Kierkegaard pp. 75-98*
3/4-8 Spring Break
3/11 Nietzsche 35-66*
3/13 Buber 53-85*
3/18 de Beauvoir pp. xviv-xxxvi*
3/20 WPS
3/25 Foucault pp. 3-37* **Exam II Due**
4/4 Irigaray pp. 118-132, pp. 213-218*
4/1 Easter Break
4/3 Levinas *Ethics and Infinity* pp. 17-72*
4/8 Levinas pp. 75-122*
4/10 Derrida *Of Hospitality* 3-73*
4/15 Derrida *OH* 75-155*
4/17 Cavanaugh 21-48
4/22 **Exam III Due**
4/22-24 Cavanaugh 205-252
5/1 **Final Exam** Monday 1:00-3:00