

Point Loma Nazarene University  
**ETHICS, RESPONSIBILITY AND LOVE**

PHL 381

Spring 2019

Mondays and Wednesdays 1:45-3:00

Instructor: Heather K. Ross

Office: Smee #204

Office Phone: 849-2357

E-mail: hross@pointloma.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

**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 practices of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers. (Learning, Growing)
2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy. (Learning)
3. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide adequate accounts of significant issues that relate to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life. (Learning, Growing, Serving)

**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 ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Please see me in order to discuss any accommodations you may need. 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. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester. If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

### **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:**

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry 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:**

Required:

1. Plato's *Symposium*. ISBN 087-22007-60
2. Milan Kundera *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* ISBN # 0061148520
3. Søren Kierkegaard. *Works of Love*. ISBN-13: 978-0061713279
4. Martin Buber *I and Thou* ISBN # 0684717255
5. Emmanuel Levinas. *Ethics and Infinity* ISBN# 8207-0178-5
6. Luce Irigaray *Way of Love* ISBN # 82647327x
7. Jacques Derrida. *Of Hospitality*. ISBN# 0-8047-3406-2

## **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. *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**. Please provide around a 150 word general introduction to the work to be covered for that day. This should be in your own words. If it is the first day discussing a figure, there should be general philosophical introduction to the figure covered during that session. It may include cultural analyses elucidating the time period surrounding the figure/work. The presentation should mainly be an outline of the text for the day. You should reference 7-8 significant portions of the text to be covered in class. You must provide a detailed list of quotations and bibliographic citation/reference for each member of the class. Pictures are always a welcome addition. I expect you to be lively and engaged with the work you are presenting. If you are interested –we will be interested. I expect you to be(come) generally familiar with the figure's work. You must provide a detailed outline and bibliography for each member of the class.

4. There will be two **papers**. The first paper will be a 4 page formal explication of the *Symposium*. You may focus on any theme from the text. I do not want or expect you to use secondary sources for this paper. Please reference the text itself in depth. Be sure to include all relevant bibliographic citation. It is due January 31st. The second paper will also be around 4 pages. It will relate a theme from the novel *Unbearable Lightness of Being* to a theme from the class. It can be about the nature of love itself or of political responsibility. It could be an ethical examination. You will need to reference at least one other figure/text from the course to be in dialogue with the novel. It will be due Friday, 4/26. You may use whichever manual of style you prefer for both papers. All papers must fully reference all texts utilized for the paper in accordance with the preferred manual of style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or 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 two in-class **exams**. The first exam will be on March 18th and will cover the figures Augustine, Kierkegaard, Buber and Levinas. It will be an essay exam. You may bring 5 3x5 notecards with you to the exam. There will be an in-class final exam on Wednesday the 1st of May from

1:30-4:00. It will be reflective and comprehensive. You will be asked to reflect on the course as a whole. It will be essay format. You may bring 5 3x5 notecards.

6. From March 20th through April 10th (deBeauvoir, Derrida, hooks and Irigaray) you will need to keep a reading **reflection** journal. You will need to reflect on the reading for that day for a full page (7 total class days, so 7 total pages). This should be typed, but may be as informal as you would like it to be. I will not evaluate this based on grammar or spelling. I mainly want you to take the material you read seriously. So, I would like that seriousness to be reflected in your writing. This is due April 18th.

7. 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 cannot be turned in any later than the following Thursday).

|                                  |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| READING                          | 10%       | 100-94% A | 79-77% C+ | 63-60% D- |
| PRESENTATION                     | 12        | 93-90% A- | 76-74% C  | 59-0% F   |
| PAPER I (Symposium)              | 16        | 89-87% B+ | 73-70% C- |           |
| EXAM I (Augustine, Kier., Buber) | 18        | 86-84% B  | 69-67% D+ |           |
| READING REFLECTION               | 10        | 83-80% B- | 66-64% D  |           |
| PAPER II (ULB/LOVE)              | 16        |           |           |           |
| <u>EXAM II FINAL</u>             | <u>18</u> |           |           |           |
| Total                            | 100%      |           |           |           |

## **SCHEDULE GUIDELINE:**

- 1/8 Introduction to Course
- 1/9 Plato's *Symposium* pp. Xxvii-24
- 1/14 *Symposium* pp. 25-44 **MLKj Reflection DUE**
- 1/16 *Symposium* pp. 45-64\*
- 1/21 MLKjr Day, No Class: Read and write a 1 page reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ["Letter from a Birmingham Jail"](#)
- 1/23 *Symposium* pp. 65-77\*
- 1/28 Augustine *On Christian Doctrine* PDF \*
- 1/30 Kierkegaard *Works of Love* pp. 17-40 ***Symposium* paper DUE**
- 2/4 *Works of Love* pp. 40-57 \*
- 2/6 *Works of Love* pp. 58-78\*
- 2/11 Attend Wiley Lecture and read Brian Bantum's *Redeeming Mulatto* pp. 87-109 PDF
- Crill Hall 1:30-2:20 (attend any 1 of the 4 Wiley Lectures, but try to attend all 4)**
- 2/13 *Works of Love* pp. 78-98\*
- 2/18 *Works of Love* pp. 78-98\*
- 2/20 Buber *I and Thou* pp.53-85\*
- 2/25 *I and Thou* 87-122 \*
- 2/27 Emmanuel Levinas *Ethics and Infinity* pp.21-52 ULB (pp. 31-60)
- 3/4 -3/8 Spring Break *Unbearable Lightness of Being* ULB (pp. 1-30)
- 3/11 *Ethics and Infinity* pp. 55-92 \*
- 3/13 (no class) read *Ethics and Infinity* pp. 95-122\*ULB (pp. 61-90)
- 3/18 **Exam I** -in class (Augustine, Kierkegaard, Buber, Levinas)
- 3/20 Simone de Beauvoir 2nd Sex [Introduction to 2nd Sex](#) RR\*
- 3/25 Derrida *Of Hospitality* pp. 3-65 RR
- 3/27 *Of Hospitality* pp. 65-109 ULB (pp. 91-120) RR \*
- 4/1 *Of Hospitality* pp. 109-155 RR \*
- 4/3 bell hooks [Understanding Patriarchy](#) ULB (pp. 121-140) RR
- 4/8 Irigaray *The Way of Love* pp. Vii-53 ULB (pp. 141-170) RR
- 4/10 *The Way of Love* pp. 57-95 ULB (pp. 171-250) RR **Reflection Due \***
- 4/15 Kundera *Unbearable Lightness of Being* pp. 3-158
- 4/17 *Unbearable Lightness of Being* pp. 158-314
- 4/18-4/22 Easter recess
- 4/24 FLEX
- 4/26 ***Unbearable Lightness of Being* Paper DUE in my mailbox by noon (Friday)**
- 5/1 **In Class Exam II (Final 1:30-4:00)**