

SPRING 2020

Meeting Days: MWF
Meeting Times: 7:25-8:20 A.M.
Meeting Location: RH 109
Final Exam: Friday, May 8th, 7:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.

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Office Hours: by appt.

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 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 world. While pursuing these questions for ourselves, we will get to know major, historical approaches to these questions—eudaimonistic, virtue, deontological, consequentialist, utilitarian, axiological, and existential—and will explore the way in which they arose as successive attempts to answer the questions more accurately and completely.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mark D. Morelli, *Self-Possession: Being at Home in Conscious Performance*. Second Edition.

Los Angeles, CA: Encanto Editions, 2019 (hereafter, *SP*).

Additional Readings will be distributed on CANVAS.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

By the end of this course, you 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 (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *analyze* and *criticize* ethical situations, questions, reasoning, and diverse perspectives and positions (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *discern* the ethical dimension of everyday life, its invitations to ethical inquiry, and its calls to heroic, ethical living (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *apply* your ethical inquiry and study of the history of ethics to historical and current events and their experiences and lives within and beyond the academy (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *express yourself orally and in writing* more clearly, meaningfully, truthfully, and philosophically (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam).

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: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *examine, critique* and *synthesize* information to arrive at reasoned conclusions. (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *demonstrate* the effective and responsible use of information from a variety of sources (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);

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: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);
- *examine* the complexity of human nature and philosophy in light of the reconciling work of God in Christ (Assessment: participation, experiential assignments, 2 quizzes, final exam);

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 (Assessment: experiential assignments).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Attendance/Participation:	5%
4 Experiential Assignments:	45%
2 Quizzes:	30%
Final Exam:	20%

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	

GRADEBOOK

A gradebook for the course will be available on CANVAS. Please note, that the CANVAS gradebook is a working gradebook, that it may change unexpectedly as it is being updated, that its grades are unofficial, that it is being provided only as a courtesy to help you keep track of your progress in the course, and that it is only being offered as a rough guide. It is your responsibility to keep track of your performance in the course.

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).

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.

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 [Class Schedules](#) site. 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 ACADEMIC 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 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.

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.

CALENDAR

January

14	Tuesday	Introduction
15	Wednesday	No Reading Authenticity; Ethics as Self-Knowledge
17	Friday	SP, “Prologue” Means and Ends; A Basic Commitment
22	Wednesday	SP, “Prologue” Moral Absolutism vs. Moral Relativism; Freedom vs. Determinism
24	Friday	SP, “Chapter One” The Basic Notions; Performative Self-Contradiction
27	Monday	SP, “Chapter Two” Adverting to Consciousness
29	Wednesday	SP, “Chapter Three” Purifying the Language of Self-Possession
31	Friday	SP, “Chapter Four” Discerning Order in Conscious Performance

February

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| 3 | Monday | SP, "Chapter Five," pp. 111-127
Order in Conscious Performance |
| 5 | Wednesday | SP, "Chapter Five," pp. 127-153
The Four Moods |
| 7 | Friday | SP, "Chapter Five," pp. 153-170
The Four Modes |
| 10 | Monday | No Reading
CPA Workshop: Attentiveness and Intelligence |
| 12 | Wednesday | No Reading
CPA Workshop: Reasonableness and Responsibility |
| 14 | Friday | No Reading
Assignment Due: Designing and Using a Heuristic Image
CPA Workshop: Designing and Using a Heuristic Image |
| 17 | Monday | No Reading
Quiz |
| 19 | Wednesday | "Aristotle" (On CANVAS)
<i>Eudaimonia</i> |
| 21 | Friday | "Aristotle" (On CANVAS)
<i>Arete</i> |
| 24 | Monday | "Aristotle" (On CANVAS)
Moral Responsibility |
| 26 | Wednesday | "Aristotle" (On CANVAS)
<i>Philia</i> |
| 28 | Friday | SP, "Chapter Six"
Assignment Due: Identifying the Moods
Motifs of Conscious Performance |

March

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| 2 | Monday | SP, "Chapter Seven" |
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		The Practical Motif
4	Wednesday	SP, "Chapter Eight" The Intellectual Motif
6	Friday	No Reading Assignment Due: Dinner with Friends CPA Workshop: Dinner with Friends
16	Monday	SP, "Chapter Nine" The Aesthetic Motif
18	Wednesday	SP, "Chapter Ten" The Dramatic Motif
20	Friday	SP, "Chapter Eleven" The Mystical Motif
23	Monday	SP, "Chapter Twelve"; "Anselm" (On CANVAS) Assignment Due: A Night at the Museum / Into the Mystic Mixing and Blending Motifs; The Ontological Argument
25	Wednesday	No Reading Quiz
27	Friday	"Kant and Mill" (On CANVAS) The Categorical Imperative
30	Monday	"Kant and Mill" (On CANVAS) Autonomy
April		
1	Wednesday	"Kant and Mill" (On CANVAS) Freedom
3	Friday	"Kant and Mill" (On CANVAS) Utilitarianism
6	Monday	SP, "Chapter Thirteen" The High Drama; Major and Minor Authenticity
8	Wednesday	"Scheler, von Hildebrand, Arendt, Lonergan" (On CANVAS)

Scheler's Value Hierarchy

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| 15 | Wednesday | "Scheler, von Hildebrand, Arendt, Lonergan" (On CANVAS)
<i>Ressentiment</i> |
| 17 | Friday | "Scheler, von Hildebrand, Arendt, Lonergan" (On CANVAS)
The Banality of Evil; Moral Conversion |
| 20 | Monday | "Scheler, von Hildebrand, Arendt, Lonergan" (On CANVAS)
The Human Good |
| 22 | Wednesday | SP, "Chapter Fourteen," pp. 265-279
Spontaneous and Unreflective Performance |
| 24 | Friday | SP, "Chapter Fourteen," pp. 279-295
Reflective and Deliberate Performance |
| 27 | Monday | SP, "Chapter Fourteen," pp. 295-303
Defining the Basic Notions Heuristically |
| 29 | Wednesday | SP, "Chapter Fourteen," pp. 304-309
The Reflective and Deliberate Commitment |
| 1 | Friday | Review |
| 8 | Friday | Final from 7:30-10:00 A.M. |