



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

PHL2011-1 Spring 22 - Ethics

3 Units

Spring 2022

January 13 - May 5

Meeting days: TR	Instructor: Dr. Eric Morelli
Meeting times: 8:00am - 9:15am	Phone: (619) 961-5272
Meeting location: RH 108	Email: emorelli@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: May 5, 7:30am - 10am	Office hours: In person or remote 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.

Foundational Explorations 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

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.

Philosophic ethics is a comprehensive and reflective discipline. The other sciences and disciplines pursue specific knowledge of the various dimensions of existence – physics, chemistry, biology, neurology, psychology, sociology, economics, political science, anthropology, history, theology. The meanings and values pursued by these disciplines differ from one another, but they are all

pursuits of meaning and value. Philosophic ethics seeks the most general knowledge of existence as a whole by reflecting upon and understanding ourselves as seekers of meaning and value. Philosophic ethics is the serious effort to come to know and take possession of ourselves as seekers of meaning and value. This knowledge of ourselves as seekers of meaning and value in everything we do is what is meant by wisdom. The point of doing philosophic ethics, then, is to acquire wisdom, and the point to acquiring wisdom is to discover how we should live in order to fulfill ourselves, achieve happiness, grow in holiness, and better serve as disciples of Christ.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- *discern* the nature of philosophical self-knowledge and its relation to everyday living (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final exam, term paper);
- *appropriate* the basic questions with which philosophers are concerned (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper);
- *realize* what it means to take possession of oneself in a basic way (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper);
- *uncover and employ* the distinction between being intelligent, reasonable, and responsible and, on the other hand, being unintelligent, unreasonable, and irresponsible (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper);
- *understand* the relationship between philosophical self-knowledge and the pursuit of value (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper);
- *be able to demonstrate competence* in philosophically ethical reflection and the ability to reflect philosophically and ethically on one's own living (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES (FELOs)

Context #1: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ

Institutional Learning Objective (ILO) #1: Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning.

- FELO #1a. Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).
- FELO #1b. Oral: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).
- FELO #1c. Information Literacy: Students will be able to access and cite information as well as evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of information from a variety of sources (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).
- FELO #1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).

Context #2: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community

ILO #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.

- FELO #2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal well-being (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).
- FELO #2b. Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).
- FELO #2c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).

Context #3: Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith

ILO #3: Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

- FELO #3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy (Assessment: participation, group work, quizzes, midterm, final, term paper).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mark D. Morelli, *Self-Possession: Being at Home in Conscious Performance*. **Second Edition**. Los Angeles, CA: Encanto Editions, **2019**.

Additional readings will be distributed on Canvas.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

All students must follow PLNU's health and safety guidelines. For the latest, visit <https://www.pointloma.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-information/traditional-undergraduate-students/healthy-safe-community>.

DECORUM

Food and Drink

The consumption of food and/or drink during class is precluded by PLNU Health and Wellness Covid masking policy. In remote sessions, drinking coffee, tea, or water is permissible. Students eating or drinking disruptively will be asked to stop. If they continue to disrupt, they will be asked to sign off and be marked absent.

Attendance

Except in cases of emergency or in accordance with official accommodations, students should not go in and out of class to avoid being missing and disrupting class. Plan ahead so you can be present and participate during all of class. Students who arrive late or are absent for the majority of class

will be marked absent. In remote classes, students must be online on time, for the whole class, and with their cameras on to be counted as in attendance.

Technology

Students may not use electronic devices during class unless in accordance with an official accommodation. Students must bring their pens, pencils, textbooks, notebooks, and hard-copies of assigned readings to each class. If you are caught using an electronic device during class, you will receive one warning. If you are caught a second time, you will be asked to leave and will be marked absent.

Dialogue

Students must conduct their dialogue in class charitably and respectfully, listening attentively to others, beginning responses to others by paraphrasing the others' points they will be responding to and by checking to make sure their understandings of those points are correct, and contributing relevantly and considerately so that others also can respond and participate.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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 drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Defined

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

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 <http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278> for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown and Scale

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Assessment	Weight
Attendance and Participation	10%
5 Quizzes	30%
Midterm	20%
Term Paper	20%
Final	20%

Grades will be earned according to the following:

Grade Scale				
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	

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Late assignments and incompletes will only be accepted and assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. 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 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

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 and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

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.

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.

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.

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 Spiritual Development.

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 at <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures> to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

CALENDAR

Week 1 Introduction to Ethics

R (1/13) Introductions

Week 2 Introduction to Ethics, Continued

T (1/18) What is Ethics?

R (1/20) Adler, "How to Read a Book"; Plato's Cave Allegory (Canvas)

DOING ETHICS

Week 3 Discerning the Aim of Conscious Performance

T (1/25) *Self-Possession* (SP), "Prologue"

R (1/27) SP, Ch. 1; **Quiz 1**

Week 4 Consciousness

T (2/1) SP, Ch. 3

R (2/3) SP, Ch. 4

Week 5 Conscious Operations and Their Order

T (2/8) SP, Ch. 5

R (2/10) SP, Ch. 5; **Quiz 2**

Week 6 Motifs of Conscious Performance

T (2/15) SP, Ch. 6-8

R (2/17) SP, Ch. 6-8; *Term Paper Assigned***Week 7 Motifs of Conscious Performance, Continued**

T (2/22) SP, Ch. 9-11

R (2/24) SP, Ch. 9-11; *Quiz 3***Week 8 Blends, the Basic Tension, Authenticity, and Deliberate and Reflective Performance**

T (3/1) SP, Ch. 12-13

R (3/3) SP, Ch. 14

Week 9 Deliberate and Reflective Performance

T (3/15) SP, Ch. 14; Fromm, “The Authoritarian Personality”

R (3/17) *Midterm****READING ETHICS*****Week 10 Valuing Beauty and Creativity***M (3/21) Extra Credit Opp.: Attend and report in class on Wiley Lectures 1 and 2: 11am-11:50am and 1:30pm-2:20pm, Crill**T (3/22) Lonergan, “The Aesthetic Pattern of Experience”; Hegel, “What is Man’s Need to Produce Works of Art?” (Canvas)**Extra Credit Opp.: Attend and report in class on Wiley Lecture 3: 9:30am-10:20am, Crill**W (3/23) Extra Credit Opp.: Attend and report in class on Wiley Lecture 4: 8:30am-9:20am, Crill**R (3/24) Tolstoy, “What is Art?”; Huyghe, “On Art” (Canvas)*

Week 11 Valuing Truth

T (3/29) Aesop's Fable 5; Plato's Cave Allegory with Explanation (Canvas)

R (3/31) Socrates' Dialectical Method; Aristotle's Metaphysics (Canvas); **Quiz 4**

Week 12 Valuing Truth, Continued

T (4/5) Aristotle on the Contemplative Life; Descartes, Meditations 1 and 2
(Canvas)

R (4/7) Fichte, "The Pure Interest in Truth"; Lonergan, "The Intellectual Pattern of Experience" (Canvas)

Week 13 Seeking Absolute Meaning and Value

T (4/12) Underhill on Mysticism; Anselm's Ontological Argument; Aquinas' Five Ways (Canvas); **Quiz 5**

Week 14 Valuing Persons

T (4/19) Aristotle on Virtue as a Mean; Aristotle on Friendship and Self-Love
(Canvas)

R (4/21) Kant on the Person as End in Itself; James, "Consciousness of Self"
(Canvas)

Week 15 Valuing Persons, Continued

T (4/26) Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism"; A Guide to Sartre's
"Existentialism is a Humanism"; De Beauvoir on the Meaning of Life
(Canvas)

R (4/28) Frankl, "Finding Meaning in Difficult Times"; MLK, "Letter from a
Birmingham Jail"; United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human
Rights" (Canvas); **Term Paper Due**

Finals Week

R (5/5)

7:30am-10am

Final