

	School of Theology & Christian Ministry
	THE 3060 Christian Life as Vocation 3 Units
Fall 2021	

Meeting days: T/TH	Instructor title and name: Mark Maddix, PhD, Dean, School of Theology & Christian Ministry
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45	Phone: 619.849.7236
Meeting location: Bond, 103	Email: mmaddix@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 3, 1:30-4:00 p.m.	Office location and hours: Smee 210, 8-5 p.m.
Additional info:	Additional info:

**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

A study of the theology and practice of vocation as they have developed in the biblical and Christian traditions. Students will be led to reflect on career and professional life in a Christian way. The course will also study Christian ethical ways of living in the world. BIB1001 or BIB 1002 prerequisite

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development. (GELO 3)
2. Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition. (GELO 3)

3. Appreciate an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life. (GELO 3)
4. Display nuances Christian faith offers to the understanding and practice of compassion and service. (GELO 2c)
5. Participate in a variety of Christian practices that help students grow spiritually. (GELO 3)
6. Develop and articulating an understanding of vocation and calling. (GELO 1a)

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication. (GELO 1a)
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts. (GELO 2c)
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy. (GELO 3)

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- Heath, Elaine A. *Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1501835643.
- Maddix, Mark A. & Diane Leclerc. *Essential Beliefs: A Wesleyan Primer*. Kansas City: Foundry press, 2016. ISBN 978-0834135703.
- Nouwen, Henri. *Letters to Marc about Jesus: Living a Spiritual Life in a Material World*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2009. ISBN 978-0060663674.
- Warren, Tish H. *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred practices in everyday life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0830846238.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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	

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

Reading & Discussion Board (20 each x 10)	200 points
Means of Grace Practices (75 each x 5)	375 points
Vocational and Calling Paper	100 points
Theology Art Project	125 points
Midterm and Final Exam	200 points
Total Points	1000 points

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 on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

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.

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

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.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, 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.

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](#).

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.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

- 1. Reading and Discussion (20 points x 10=200 points).** You are to complete 10 of the 12 weekly 250 word essays in response to the discussion questions raised from the assigned reading, and then you are to post it on Canvas. Essays are graded based on the rubric included on Canvas. Also, you are to be prepared to discuss the readings in class.
- 2. Christian Practices: Means of Grace (75 points x 5 = 375 points).** All upper division theology (THE) Foundational Exploration courses require students to reflect on Elaine Heath’s book, *The Five Means of Grace*, and participate in Christian practices or “means of grace” that the author discusses in the book. At the end of each module, you are to engage in the assigned practice.
 - **Module 1-Searching the Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*).** See Canvas for instructions.
 - **Module 2-Prayer (Examen).** See Canvas for instructions.
 - **Module 3-Lord’s Supper (Worship)** --Attend a worship service outside of your tradition, preferably with a different cultural group and write at 500-word response that addresses the following areas:
 - i.** Describe the service you attended (include worship space and symbols) and compare it to your own church tradition or PLNU chapel based on aspects of preparation, singing, prayer, preaching, sacraments, and interaction of congregants.
 - ii.** Conclude with what stepping out of your pattern of worship taught you about Christian worship.
 - iii.** Take a photo of yourself attending the service and copy it into your paper.

- **Module 4-Fasting/Sabbath-** You are to take an intentional time of Fasting in one of the following ways:
 - i. Technology Fast-you take one day (24 hours) and do not engage in any email, phone, or texting.
 - ii. Solitude-you take one day (24 hours) to be alone and not talk or engage in conversation with anyone. This is a time to rest and relax. 3
 - iii. Exercise-you exercise three times during a week as part of your self-care. Write a 500-word essay describing how this Sabbath rest improved your sense of well-being, reduced your anxiety, and helped you connect with God.
- **Module 5-Christian Conferencing (Develop a Rule of Life)- Developing a Rule of Life** that articulates your pattern of spiritual growth and development. The Rule of Life becomes a document that summarizes principles and practices that will deepen your relationship with Christ, your sense of vocation and calling, and help you grow in personal and social holiness. The Rule of life is to be 500 words. The Rule of life instructions are provided on canvas.

You have a great deal freedom in discerning how you will do this, as long as it connects with the explanations of the practice in Heath's book. You are to complete these on your own, or in a group setting and then write a 500-word essay talking about your experience.

You might find it helpful to personally journal on those questions and simply write a concise version of your responses when writing your essay.

The questions could be as follows:

1. Which means of grace did you practice this week?
2. Why do the means of grace matter to Christian life and faith?
3. What did you observe, feel, experience, through this practice?
4. How did you feel about this experience and is this a practice that you might incorporate in your spiritual life?

*As can be seen through this assignment, this course will include practices of Christian spirituality. While the professor does hope you find these meaningful for your own reflection and meaning-making, the professor does not assume that everyone at PLNU is a Christian. If you do not feel comfortable engaging in Christian practices, please know that the professor is willing to discern alternative options for you. Simply inform the professor during the first week of class and set up a meeting to discuss alternatives.

3. Vocation and Calling Paper (100 points). Since this class is about how you discern your sense of vocation it is important to be able to articulate you sense of vocation and calling as it relates to your gifts and abilities. You are to write a 500-750-word essay regarding your sense of Vocation and calling. As you write the paper you might consider responding to some of the following prompts:

1. What is your major, and how did you find your way to PLNU?

2. In what ways do you see your faith intersecting with your career plans?
 3. What insights have you gained from reading and practicing the “means of grace” (Heath’s book)?
 4. What kind of life do you sense God calling you to live?
 5. In what ways are you embracing this call or embracing a meaningful life? **Due February 8.**
4. **Theology Art Project (125 points).** There are four components to the Theology Art Project: (1) your original creation, (2) your artist’s memo, (3) your presentation video to be shared in class with your art piece, and (4) your reflection on three classmates’ projects. A rubric will be provided. For a description of the four components, see the explanations below.

- **Your original creation.** You will submit *your own original creation* that substantively *expresses* and builds upon a theological theme from the Maddix and Leclerc book (example: God, Jesus, Trinity, Church, Salvation, Mission, Service, etc.) This project can be done in several ways (i.e., painting, poster, poetry, story, short film, song, music video, podcast, game, app, built structure, machine, organizational chart, business plan, spreadsheet, concept illustration, food, clothing, etc.), and is to represent how you view this particular theological theme in relationship to your sense of vocation. If your original creation can be created digitally, you will submit the digital file containing the project. Be prepared to share your video presentation and/or art project in class.

While it is true that many do not feel as if they are creative people, the theological reality is that every human being is created in the image of God—the Creator of all things. We are created by a creative God as divinely creative creatures. As you prepare for this assignment, feel free to try your hand at something new. However, don’t assume creativity is limited to a stereotypical box. Take a moment to reflect on the various ways your passion, skills, talents and sense of wonder lead you to create.

- **Your artist’s memo.** Along with your original creation, you must submit an “artist’s memo” that explains your intentions, goals, and purposes for the project’s composition. Your explanation in the “artist’s memo” needs to make it very clear that you understand the theological theme and that your original creation has been created in a thoughtful and careful manner. The length of the “artist’s memo” is 250-500 words. The “artist’s memo” needs to answer the following questions:
 1. What is the significance of this piece?
 2. How does it substantively relate to a theological theme in the Maddix and Leclerc book?
 3. How does this theological theme relate to your sense of vocation and calling?
- **Your video presentation.** You will post a 5-minute video presentation of your original creation. In this video, you need to expound upon content in your artist’s memo. The video presentation needs to be **posted by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 26.**
- **Your reflection on three peers’ projects.** You will respond to three of your peers’ presentations by replying to their posts with your answers to the following questions:

1. What did you appreciate or find intriguing about this project?
2. What questions do you have for the artist?

Your reflections on three peers' projects need to be posted **by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 28.**

5. Midterm and Final Exam (100 points each).

6. Extra Credit-I invite you to attend the School of Theology & Christian Ministries Wiley Lectures featuring Dr. Willie Jennings. The lecture series is titled, "The Revolution of Salvation." You can receive 10 points extra credit for attending one of the following sessions in the Crill Performance Hall.

- Monday, March 21 11:00-11:50 a.m.
- Monday, March 21, 1:30-2:20 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 22, 9:30-10:20 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 23, 8:30-9:20 a.m.

DATE	COURSE CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
Module 1	Reconsidering Christian Vocation (Jan. 13-27)	
Jan. 13	God's Calling and Vocation in Scripture	
Jan. 18	Defining Christian Vocation	
Jan. 20	Revelation and Scripture	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 1-3 Warren, Chs. 1-3 <i>Reading Report #1 Due</i>
Jan. 25	Scripture as Formation	
Jan. 27	Means of Grace: Searching Scripture (<i>Lectio Divina</i>)	Heath, Ch.2; Nouwen, Ch. 1-2 <i>Reading Report #2 Due</i> <i>Means of Grace: Searching the Scripture (Lectio Divina) due</i>
Module 2	Christian Life as Loving God (Feb. 1-17)	
Feb. 1	Introduction to Spiritual Formation	
Feb. 3	Triune God	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 4-5 <i>Reading Report #3 Due</i>
Feb. 8	The Person of Jesus	<i>Vocational & Calling Paper Due</i>
Feb. 10	The Person of The Holy Spirit	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 6-7 <i>Reading Report #4 Due</i>
Feb. 15	Inward Practices (Prayer & Meditation)	
Feb. 17	Means of Grace: Prayer (Examen)	Heath, Ch 1; Warren, Chs. 4, 6-7. <i>Reading Report #5 Due</i> <i>Means of Grace: Prayer Due</i>
Module 3	Christian Life as Worship (Feb. 22-March 17)	
Feb. 22	Created in the Image of God (<i>Imago Dei</i>)	
Feb. 24	The Work of Salvation	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 7-11 <i>Reading Report #6 Due</i>
Mar. 1	Theological Reflections (Mid-term review)	
Mar. 3	Mid-Term Exam	

Mar. 7-11	SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 15	The Practice of Worship	
Mar. 17	Means of Grace: Lord's Supper	Warren, Chs. 5, 8-11; Heath, Ch. 3, <i>Reading Report #7 Due Means of Grace: Worship Service Due</i>
Module 4	Christian Life in Community (Mar. 22-April 7)	
Mar. 22	Reclaiming Sabbath Rest/Self Care	
Mar. 24	Sanctification and Holiness	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 12-14 <i>Reading Report #8 Due</i>
Mar. 29	Outward Practices	
Mar. 31	The Church (Ecclesiology)	Maddix & Leclerc, Chs. 15-16 <i>Reading Report #9 Due</i>
April 5	The Church (Ecclesiology)	
April 7	Means of Grace: Fasting (Sabbath)	Nouwen, 3-5; Health, Ch. 4 <i>Reading Report #10 Due Means of Grace: Fasting/Sabbath Due</i>
Module 5	Christian Life as Loving Others (April 12-28)	
April 12	The Church and Mission	Maddix & Leclerc, Ch. 17 & 18; Nouwen, Chs. 6-7. <i>Reading Report #11 Due</i>
April 14	NO CLASS-EASTER BREAK	
April 19	Resurrection Hope	
April 21	Means of Grace: Christian Conferencing Developing a Rule of Life	Maddix and Leclerc, Ch. 19; Health Ch. 5 <i>Reading Report #12 Due Means of Grace: Rule of Life Due</i>
April 26	Theology Art Project Demonstration	<i>Theology Art Project Due</i>
April 28	Theology Art Project Demonstration	<i>Peer Responses to Art Project Due</i>
May 3	Final Exam, Tuesday, 1:30-4:00 p.m.	