

PHL2001 Syllabus
Point Loma Nazarene University

Introduction to Philosophy

PHL2001
Spring 2024
TR 11:00-12:15pm

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Office Hours: by appointment

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

This course is a historical survey of selected philosophical ideas, systems, and methods, especially as these have developed in Western civilization. Our objectives for the course are as follows:

1. To develop and widen an openness towards the pursuit of wisdom.
2. To nurture creative and reflective thinking by reading significant primary texts within the Western philosophical tradition.
3. To examine what it means for us to be human.
4. To examine the nature of language and meaning formation
5. To examine ethical questions like courage and humility.

6. To introduce several philosophical issues found in the Western tradition including human knowledge, the relationship of the soul to the body, and the meaning of human existence.
7. To wrestle with these issues as they relate to our lives.

Course 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)

Foundational Exploration Learning Outcomes

Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.

Required Texts

1. Plato, Five Dialogues ISBN 0-87220-633-5
2. Plato, Symposium ISBN 978-0872200760
3. Aristotle, De Anima ISBN 9781605204321
4. Anselm, Proslogion ISBN 978-0872205659
5. René Descartes, Meditations On First Philosophy ISBN 0-87220-192-9
6. Martin Heidegger, Discourse on Thinking ISBN 0-06-131459-5
7. James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time ASIN B0014EAHHM (Audible #), ISBN 978-0679744726
8. Søren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling ISBN 0-140-44449-1

Course Credit Hour Information

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 (an average of 7.5 hours per week).

Procedures and 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 primary material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but how they make 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.
2. Regular and punctual attendance in our class discussion is required for the full benefit of this class. If you are late it is your responsibility to talk to me after class in order that your attendance may be recorded. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will also be important. Therefore, each student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs, along with attendance will be considered in your final grade.
3. You will be completing six philosopher assignments throughout the semester.
4. The first one will be on Heidegger's "Memorial Address" from Discourse on Thinking. The 4th and 5th will be on Simone de Beauvoir's Introduction to 2nd Sex. And the 6th and 7th will be on James Baldwin's The Fire Next Time. They should be 250 words each and double spaced. When there are two reflections on one figure, the first of each will be a reflection on the reading -due the Wednesday of the week we discuss the figures -and the second of each will be due the Friday after class discussion and will be a reflection on the class period. They are meant to be informal reflections on your reading and interpretation of the texts. See the Module page on Canvas for the precise due dates.
5. There will be one 4 paged typed, double-spaced essay on Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling. It will function as the final exam. This will be explicative and formal (please follow guidelines given in the M.L.A. Handbook, Chicago Manual of Style or any manual of style). I will discuss my expectations for this further in class and on Canvas. 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. Both will result in a letter to the Provost

Fear and Trembling Essay

In great detail, please compare the Knight of Infinite Resignation to the Knight of Faith from Kierkegaard's work Fear and Trembling. Make sure to include a discussion of Abraham's silence.

- The paper should be approximately 1000 words, typed and double-spaced
- Plagiarism will result in failure of the class. Please follow M.L.A., Chicago or any formal manual of style
- Please include your thesis in bold print.
- The paper is due by Tuesday, April 30th by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be distributed thusly:

Video Response	5 points (.5 % each video response)
Socrates/King Assignment	8 points (8%)
PLato Assignment A	8 points
Plato Assignment B	10 points
Aristotle Assignment	10 points
Anselm Assignment	7 points
Descartes Assignment	8 points
Wiley Lecture Reflection	4 points
Heidegger Reflection	4 points
DeBeauvoir A Reflection	4 points
DeBeauvoir B Reflection	4 points
Baldwin A Reflection	4 points
Baldwin B Reflection	4 points
Fear and Trembling Essay	20 points
TOTAL	100 points (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	

Discrimination/Harrassment

Discrimination or harassment related to race, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual identity or orientation, differences in ability, religious choice, or any other type of behavior that dehumanizes human beings or dismisses difference, is not conducive to a good learning environment and is harmful to human vitality and healthy community. These behaviors will not be tolerated. We encourage all students to be open to any honest, respectful, and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

Inclusive Language

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of all human beings regardless of gender. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, etc., the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, for example, terms like “man” or “mankind” or the pronoun “he,” should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead “people,” “humanity,” “humans,” and “he, she or they” better acknowledge every human being as a full person.

Land, Labor and Life Acknowledgement

As students and scholars at PLNU, we acknowledge our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the [Kumeyaay Diegueño Indian Tribe](#). May we be good guests to the people, the stories, the wisdom, the fruits of the land and dwell with one another with peace.

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.

Late Assignments and Incompletes

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in to Canvas when they are due. Any excused late assignment must be completed within one week of the original due date

and must be approved via email by me. 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

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 ERC (Educational Access Center), located in the Bond Academic Center (619-849-2486). The ERC'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 prohibits discrimination against students and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the ERC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The ERC 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 ERC 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 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 Definition

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.

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](#)

Use of Technology

Please no use of laptops in the classroom unless specifically requested via email.

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.