

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
BIB 102 New Testament History and Religion
Fall 2017

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This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Responding to the Sacred." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will

- Identify the historical context of the New Testament;
- Articulate the unity of the New Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon;
- Articulate and appreciate the ways in which the Bible, understood as given by divine inspiration, functions as the church's central norm for Christian discipleship, faith and practice; and
- Articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

REQUIRED READING:

- The New Testament in a modern translation. Preferred versions include the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.
- Carter, Warren. *The Roman Empire and the New Testament*.
- France, R.T. *Women in the Church's Ministry*.
- Pdf file of a book on scripture.
- Other articles as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. You may miss up to three sessions without penalty. Every absence after the third will result in a deduction of 1/2% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 6 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Four responses to assigned readings. Each response must be completed before class on the assigned day. Each response should be around 300 words and briefly 1) summarize the most important ideas of these articles and 2) describe the points that you found to be either most interesting or puzzling. Submit these responses on Canvas.

3. Essay: R.T. France's book discusses the view of women presented in the NT and the biblical arguments formed against the ordination of women to the Christian ministry. Using the assigned reading in France's book (chapter 1, pp. 69-72, and chapter 4) and chapters 3-5 of the manuscript on scripture, and focusing on the crucial passage 1 Timothy 2:8-15, respond to these questions:

- To what extent do the various layers of the literary context of 1 Timothy 2:8-15 affect the interpretation? Think not only of the passage's most immediate context in 1 Timothy, but also the fact that it is part of a larger body of letters ascribed to Paul, of the New Testament, and of the Bible. Are there other passages in the Bible that affect the interpretation of 1 Timothy 2?
- To what extent does the historical context of 1 Timothy play a role in interpretation?
- Comment on the reader's context--what elements of your culture affect your interpretation?

Further stipulations:

- The essay is due October 17 at class time.
- The essay should be three double spaced pages--approximately 1100-1200 words.
- It must be submitted via Canvas.
- You will be graded on the basis of 1) the extent to which you fully address the assigned topic; 2) the clarity and logic of your analysis; and 3) spelling, grammar, and organization of ideas.

4. Weekly responses to the manuscript on scripture. Nearly each week there will be an assignment on your reading of my manuscript on scripture. For each chapter, respond to the following:

- Briefly summarize the main point of the chapter.
- What is the most interesting point of the chapter?
- What part of the chapter made the most sense?
- Which part of the chapter made the least sense and needed more explaining?

You will complete and submit these assignments via Canvas.

5. Exams: There will be a midterm exam on October 12 and a final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Essay on 1 Timothy 2	80 points
Final exam	120
Mid-term exam	75
Four responses to articles	32 (8 points each)
Ten responses to the book on scripture	80 (8 points each)

PLNU POLICIES

- **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: 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. See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- 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 department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.