

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

CMI622: Teaching and Preaching the Scripture (3 units)

Summer 2015

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Instructor

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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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Preaching and Teaching the Scripture [CMI-622]. This class moves to the very heart of the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In a series of readings and lectures, vital discussions, and thoughtful written assignments you will refine your skills as communicators of the gospel. The class will work from the words of Peter Taylor Forsyth written more than a century ago in 1907: "with its preaching Christianity stands or fall" (Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind, 1). While the church might debate the truth of Forsyth's assertion in the second decade of the twenty-first century, certainly a high view of the authority of Scriptures serves as the foundation for all effective preaching. You are invited to participate in this adventure in practical theology that emerges out of our reading of Romans 10:14-17:

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives for this course are to:

- Introduce the student to New Testament gospel, noting its origin in Judaism and its setting in Greco-Roman culture.
- Introduce the student to the process of "contextualization" .
- Describe how a preacher/teacher makes the transition from a 1st century biblical text to its proclamation in the 21st century.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course student will be able to:

- Define the nature of the gospel set forth in the New Testament.
- Affirm that the relationship between the gospel and the ministry of the contemporary church.
- Develop a plan that will enable the student to contextualize a biblical text in his/her preaching/teaching ministry.

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 three unit class delivered over nine weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their course work. The time expectations for this course are shown below:

Assignments	Total Hours
Required Reading	40
Online Interaction	15
Writing Reflection Papers	10
Watching and Responding to Videos	10
Week Long Intensive	30
Final Project	25
Total	130

REQUIRED READING

Flemming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. IVP Academic, 2005.

Gorman, Michael J.. *Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation, and Mission*. Eerdmans, 2015.

Wright, John W. *Telling God's Story: Narrative Preaching for Christian Formation*. IVP Academic, 2007.

Wright, N.T. *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good*. HarperOne, 2015.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Class Participation	100 points
Online Discussion Board Interaction	100 points
Book Reflection Papers	400 points
Final Project	400 points
TOTAL	1000 points

Class Participation (100 points)

Your interactions within the course and with your classmates are contained in the answering of discussion questions and your participation responses to other students' answers and responses. Your interaction in the course is monitored and graded. Your interaction with the course content, the instructor, fellow students, and the learning process directly influences your level of success in the course. You need to demonstrate that you have truly completed the assigned readings, shared what you learned from them, and demonstrate understanding and application of the concepts presented. Participation in the course will benefit your overall online experience as well as the experience of others in the course.

Participation in Weekly Reading and Video Assignment (50 points per week)

Each week students will participate at least three times in online assignments. (Due Thursday and Sunday midnight of each week). The online course assignments are as follows:

Book Reflections (400 points)

Submit a reflection paper for each of the required texts. Reflection papers should be 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, font size 12). Each paper should have three sections:

- a general overview of the major themes. (What did the author say?)
- your thoughtful engagement and critique of major themes. (What would you say to the author?)
- your personal/practical response and “take-away”. (So what?)

Papers will be due as indicated in the syllabus course schedule. The reflection papers must reflect graduate-level writing and critical thinking. Late papers will receive a reduction of one letter grade.

Final Project (400 points): The Gospel for the 21st Century

The purpose of the final project is to serve as a capstone for the course. You will take what you have learned in the first 4 weeks of the course, add it to what you learn in the week-long intensive, and develop a two-in-a-series set of sermons.

1. Select the text of the passage of the Bible you will use for your sermon series.
2. Spend SIGNIFICANT time defining the outline of the passage (at least 4 hours). Identify the meaning of the passage. Look up and read what the commentators share about the verses.
3. Fashion an exposition on the passage.
4. Spend SIGNIFICANT time turning that study into a sermon. Remember, a Bible study is not the same thing as a sermon. The Bible study is abstract (what does the text say?). The sermon is life related (what does this mean to me?).
5. Spend SIGNIFICANT time with your sermon (at least 6 hours) to make it shorter.
6. Polish your sermons. Continue to pray over them. Pray for the ears that will hear what is written.

Points-Based Grading Scale

A	900-1000	points
B	800-899	points
C	700-799	points
D	600-699	points

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. As a student in this course, you will have a minimum attendance requirement of three days each week.

This means you will need to log into Canvas and post an assignment or response on at least three days in each week (except for the intensive week). Any day missed below this minimum requirement will count as an absence. Students may be dropped from the course if two such absences are recorded during the class and **will be** dropped if four such absences occur or if a student fails to attend class in any given week.

INCOMPLETE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates posted. There will be a reduction of one letter grade for assignments that are turned in late. If missing assignments result in the your failure to meet learning outcomes, this instructor may give up to a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work.

While there are due dates for weekly assignments, you are welcome to post your work earlier in the week. In our discussions, late work means that others may not have the opportunity to respond to your comments. It also means that you will not have the benefit of as much interaction with other students as you will have if your assignment is posted on time. If you know you will be away on the day your assignment is due, please post your work before you leave.

Assignments will be considered late if posted after midnight Pacific Standard Time on the day they are due.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the result of another person's creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. An instructor who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

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 SoTCM urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic

accommodations. At PLNU, students must request academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. You'll find faith integration activities throughout this course. In addition, there are resources for your Christian faith journey available on the [Graduate Student Life](#) webpage.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This course will meet the federal requirements by posting grades and returning assignments via the Canvas gradebook. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal.

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 [Student Responsibilities and Policies](#).

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