

School of Theology and Christian Ministry

CMI635 Christian Scripture

3 Units

Fall 2015

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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

An exploration of the literature and theology of the Christian canon with special attention to its ancient contexts and significance for contemporary Christian ministry.

In addition to your online course work there will be a week long intensive face-to-face session that runs from October 19, 2015 through October 23, 2015.

MASTERS OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Master of Ministry program is designed to educate and accommodate students who live at a distance (often in ministry assignments). In addition to online course work there will be a week long intensive face-to-face sessions. The curriculum has a strong emphasis on both academic rigor (preparation for possible continuation of graduate studies) and practical ministry.

The degree is designed around four central emphases which are highlighted in the core courses:

- Christian Formation
- Christian Scripture

- Church in Mission
- Christian Tradition

Each of these courses is paired with a course that focuses on ministry practice.

Prior to completion of the thirty-six (36) required units for the PLNU Master of Ministry degree, students will have the option to request of the Office of Records that the PLNU degree not be posted, allowing the maximum number of units to be utilized toward the completion of the Master of Divinity degree as outlined in the partnership agreement between PLNU and Nazarene Theological Seminary.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete PLNU's Master of Ministry program will be able to:

1. Incorporate Christian formation in the local congregation and the life of the candidate;
2. Interpret scripture especially as related to preaching and teaching in the local church;
3. Explain the nature, mission, and social context of the Church, especially as related to ecclesial practices and leadership of the pastor in the local congregation; and
4. Analyze theology, ethics, and Church history, especially as related to the Wesleyan tradition in contemporary ministry.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the inspiration and authority of Christian Scripture (PLO 2 & 3)
2. Apply methods of interpretation appropriate to selected books, texts, and genres of Christian scripture. (PLO 2 & 4)
3. Evaluate the unity of scripture in its witness to Christ (PLO 2 & 4)

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 students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per unit of credit on their course work. The time expectations for this course are shown below:

Assignments	Total Hours
Required Reading	40
Online Discussions & Groups	17
Reading Quizzes	3
Assignments	18

Week Long Intensive	32
Final Project	6
Total	116

REQUIRED TEXTS (**A:** refers to the Amazon price for new book; **P<** refers to the max. # of pages assigned from this source, for reference)

1. An academic study Bible (NRSV translation) with the Apocrypha – SEE options below (under **Recommended**)
 - o Why NRSV? Because it is a very close translation (more literal than—not necessarily better than—the NIV) and, honestly, it is unfamiliar to most evangelicals. Reading the Bible in a translation that is unfamiliar can spark new insights and cause us to rethink our well-worn assumptions.
2. Justo L. Gonzalez, *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes* (Abingdon, 1996); ISBN 0687014522 **A: \$13 P<112**
3. Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers* (Revised Edition; Baker, 2009); ISBN 0801046408 **A: \$16 P<180**
4. Michael Gorman, editor, *Scripture: An Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation* (Baker, 2005); ISBN 0801046424 **A: \$24 P<265**
5. Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the Scriptures* (Beacon Hill, 2012); ISBN 0834128845 **A: \$7 P<66**

RECOMMENDED STUDY BIBLES/TOOLS

1. *The People's Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Eds.: Deyoung, Gafney, *et al* (Fortress, 2008); ISBN 0806656255 **A: \$22**
 - o Select this Bible if you're interested in encountering a diversity of cultural perspectives and contributions from many persons of color. The approach is generally protestant and academic. Some of its datings and historical decisions are not explained in detail, but are within the scholarly mainstream.
2. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Ed.: Harrelson (Abingdon, 2003); ISBN 0687278325 **A: \$31**
 - o Select this Bible if your primary interest is the theological and literary aspects of the texts. The book introductions will also include historical information, but its primary goal is elaborating the significant messages for the church.
3. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Eds.: Coogan, Brettler, *et al* (4th; Oxford University Press, 2010); ISBN 0195289609 **A: \$24**
 - o Select this Bible for a greater focus on the historical-critical aspects of the text. Introductions to books often include a variety of scholarly perspectives on items of debate (authorship, dating, integrity).
4. Tool for Gospel study: *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*, Revised Standard Version (Revised ed.; American Bible Society, 2010). **A: \$41**

5. Genre-specific interpretation of Psalms: Walter Brueggemann, *Praying the Psalms: Engaging Scripture and the Life of the Spirit* (2nd; Cascade, 2007); ISBN 1556352832 **A: \$13**

*A note about assigned textbooks: Neither you nor your professor will ultimately agree with everything stated in any one of these books or in the comments on a Bible. Their inclusion among assigned or suggested readings is not tacit approval. It is, however, an encouragement to engage new opinions and expertise (as is the case with most reading). For why would we read if books could only tell us what we already believe or understand?

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. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your grades will be posted in the Canvas gradebook no later than midnight on Tuesday of each week beginning in the second week of this course. It is important to read the feedback provided in the gradebook and on your papers returned during our face-to-face meetings as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted within ten days of the end of the class. Multiple measures of evaluation are used in the course, allowing students opportunities to demonstrate their learning in more than one way, and giving consideration to individual learning styles.

Given that this is an English-language class, all submitted assignments must be written in English.

Course components that will be evaluated include:

Discussions

Each week students will participate in online discussions with classmates, which are related to the week's readings. These discussions replace the interactive dialogue that occurs in the traditional classroom setting. **Discussions represent 20% of the overall course grade.**

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes are due throughout the online portion of this course. These quizzes will provide an opportunity for students to critically reflect on their own learning processes and demonstrate their understanding of the reading material. **Reading Quizzes represent 10% of the overall course grade.**

Group Devotional Project

Participation will include attendance during the week long intensive, workshop participation and contributions to the open discussions and completed group devotional project. **Group Devotional Project represents 20% of the overall course grade.**

Written Assignments

There is a written assignment due in Weeks One through Week Nine of this course. These assignments must reflect college-level writing and critical thinking. **Assignments represent 25% of the overall course grade.**

Final Project

The final project for this course is a summative assignment providing you with the opportunity to apply all you have learned and demonstrating you have met the course learning outcomes. **The Final Project represents 25% of the overall course grade.**

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	92-90	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

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. 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.

For **the week-long intensive portion** of the class, attentive attendance is expected. Because breaks for food, stretching, and bathroom visits will be scheduled into our day, other breaks are to be kept to a minimum. Additionally, it is suggested that you disable wifi and/or minimize your internet browser during the class, [if you must use a laptop](#). Our ["wired" brains](#) are [too readily distracted](#); being present is more than being in the room.

INCOMPLETE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates posted. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for each day an assignment is 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. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

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.

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 “humanity,” “humans,” and “he or she” better acknowledge women as full persons.

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.

Academic Honesty Verification

During the last week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification statement. Submitting the Statement is a requirement of this course.

By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification statement, you will be verifying that all assignments done in this course were completed by you.

Carefully review the Academic Honesty Verification statement below. If you have any questions, please ask for clarification. **The form you will submit looks like this:**

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 [Technology and System Requirements](#).

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