

	School of Theology & Christian Ministry
	Theology 3005: Christianity & the Natural Sciences 3 units
Fall 2022	

Meeting days: T-Th	Instructor: Michael Lodahl, Ph.D
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45 p.m.	Phone: 858 405 3184
Meeting location: Rohr 109	Email: mlodahl@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Dec. 15, 1:30-4 p.m.	Office location and 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

Loma 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

Catalogue description: This course explores central Christian convictions, e.g., the doctrines of creation, providence, the incarnation and the resurrection of the body, in careful and respectful dialogue with the natural sciences, especially cosmology and biological evolution.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to

- Interpret relevant biblical texts carefully and responsibly;
- Analyze the critical elements in the Christian doctrine of creation; and
- Appraise the significance of scientific discoveries, concepts, and theories for Christian theology

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lodahl, Michael. *Praying with Jesus: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer*.

Lodahl, M. and Cordero, April. *Renewal in Love: Living Holy Lives in God's Good Creation*

Moritz, Joshua. *Science and Religion: Beyond Warfare and Toward Understanding*

Powell, Samuel. *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the Scriptures*

James Stump, ed. *Four Views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Regular, faithful attendance to class and active participation in class discussions.
 - 2) Five brief (2-3 page, double-spaced) reflection papers during the semester as scheduled, out of six possible due dates. (In other words, you get to choose to skip one paper at any point in the semester that you wish.) These papers will give you the opportunity to reflect upon any idea, concept, or controversy encountered in class reading or during class discussion. These papers should demonstrate active engagement with the pertinent reading (either by quotation or by meaningful allusion) and your own thinking in relationship / response to the material. In each paper the student should strive to bring the ideas of the natural sciences as discussed in the assigned reading and in class into creative conversation with pertinent ideas / doctrines of the Christian faith. These papers should be college-level examples of good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and reflection.
- The PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the full equality and dignity of all people. Recognizing that human beings have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women and other marginalized peoples, the department strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Determined on the basis of attendance / participation (25%) and five reflection papers (15% each, 75% total).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Final letter grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-93	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

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.

COURSE CALENDAR

September

1 – Introduction to the course.

6 – Karen Strand Winslow, “The Earth is Not a Planet”

8 – *Renewal in Love*, 17-34; lecture handout on Genesis 1 and 2.

13 – *Teacher’s Guide to Understanding the Scriptures*, 5-31

15 – *Teacher’s Guide*, 32-70

- *First reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, Sept. 18, midnight.*

20 – *Four Views*, 1-48

22 – *Four Views*, 49-70

27 – *Four Views*, 71-100

29 – *Four Views*, 101-123

October

- *Second reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, Oct. 2, midnight.*

4 – *Four Views*, 124-153

6 – *Four Views*, 154-176

11 – *Four Views*, 177-208

13 – *Four Views*, 209-235

- *Third reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, Oct. 16, midnight.*

18 – *Science and Religion*, 58-83

20 – *Science and Religion*, 84-106

25 – *Science and Religion*, 107-138

27 – *Science and Religion*, 139-176

- *Fourth reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, Oct. 30, midnight.*

November

1 – *Renewal in Love*, 35-66; *Praying with Jesus*, 7-23

3 – *Science and Religion*, 177-194; *Praying with Jesus*, 23-38

8 – *Science and Religion*, 194-206; *Praying with Jesus*, 39-56

10 – *Science and Religion*, 206-212; *Renewal in Love*, 69-92

- *Fifth reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, November 13, midnight.*

15 – *Science and Religion*, 213-237

17 – *Science and Religion*, 238-254; *Praying with Jesus* 57-65

22 – *Science and Religion*, 254-272

Thanksgiving Break 11/23-25

29 – *Praying with Jesus*, 67-85

December

1 – *Renewal in Love*, 93-120

- *Sixth reflection paper possibility due Sunday night, December 4, midnight*

6 – *Science and Religion* 273-289; *Praying with Jesus* 87-101

8 – *Renewal in Love*, 120-143; *Praying with Jesus* 103-110

15 – Final Exam (just a relatively brief course questionnaire!), 1:30 p.m.