

**Interpreting Christian Scripture
(M.A. in Christian Ministry)
BIB 6037**

Point Loma Nazarene University
Fall 2019
Online: Sept. 3 through Oct. 25, 2019
Face to Face: Sept. 23-27, 2019

Professor: Rev. Dr. Brad E. Kelle
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Office Hours: See schedule on door

Course Description

An introduction to diverse ways of reading Christian scripture, from ancient to modern, with an emphasis on its theological significance for ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- 1) exegete a passage of scripture using contextual, literary, and theological analysis
- 2) encounter the history and terminology of biblical interpretation, including the basics of Bible content, the formation and literary diversity of the canon, and traditional and non-traditional methods for biblical study
- 3) explore diverse ways that scripture has been received and interpreted within various cultural, ethnic, and social contexts and the impact of those interpretations within their settings

Course Texts

1. Frederick C. Tiffany and Sharon H. Ringe, *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996).

2. Michael J. Gorman, ed. *Scripture and Its Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017).

3. A Bible of the student's choice (preferred: NRSV; do not use KJV or a free translation [e.g., *Living Bible, Message*, etc.]

Course Requirements (Summary)

(see the course schedule below for the specific due dates and content of the assignments)

1. Reading Observations and Student Responses: In each week of the course (except the face to face week), each student will post (to the course Canvas site) **three** observations drawn from the overall batch of assigned readings for the week (400 words total) *and* post responses to **two** other students and the observations they have submitted for the week's readings (200 words total). The observations and responses are worth a combined 20 possible points each week. *[course learning outcomes 2 and 3]*

*The *three reading observations* are due each Friday by 11:59pm PDT.

*The *responses to two other students* are due each Sunday by 11:59pm PDT

2. Exegetical Notes: In the weeks of the course following the face to face week (except week 8), each student will submit exegetical notes through the course Canvas site that pertain to the student's work on different elements of the final exegetical paper. Each notes submission is worth 20 points as a whole, should be ca. 500-1000 words in length, and is due by Friday at 11:59pm PDT. [course learning outcomes 1 and 2]

3. Final Exegetical Paper: As the culmination to the course, each student will submit (through the course Canvas site) a final exegetical (or interpretation) paper on a biblical passage of her or his choosing. Instructions will be provided in class and through the readings, and the paper should follow the provided format and instructions. The final paper should be approximately 3,500 words (or ca. 14 pages, typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides). The paper is worth 100 possible points and is due on Friday October 25, 2019 by 11:59pm PDT. [course learning outcomes 1, 2, 3]

Course Policies

1. Grading: The student's grade will be based on a combination of the following:

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
140 (7 at 20 pts each)	Reading Observations and Responses
60 (3 at 20 pts each)	Exegetical Notes
100	Final Exegetical Paper

*Total: 300 (possible points)

<u>*Grading Scale:</u> 94-100 A	84-86 B	74-76 C	64-66 D
90-93 A-	80-83 B-70-73 C-60-63 D-		
87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	50s F

2. Late Work Policy: In order not to be considered "late," all assignments must be submitted by the day and time listed as the due date. A missed assignment may be submitted for up to *half credit* up to *one week* after the listed due date. *No assignment will be accepted for credit of any kind more than one week after the original due date.*

3. Inclusivity: 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. This course will strive to practice sensitivity toward and foster respect for issues of inclusivity in matters of language and conduct. Each student should seek to enrich this inclusive atmosphere in both their class contributions and personal interactions.

4. Academic Honesty: 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.

5. **Academic Accommodations:** 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.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Sept. 3-8, 2019

Starting Points: Introduction to the Course and What Is Biblical Interpretation?

Assignments:

1. Watch the video lecture from Dr. Kelle
2. If you need an overall refresher for Bible content, watch the video, "What Is the Bible" at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>
3. Read Gorman ch. 1 and 6
4. Read Tiffany and Ringe, "Introduction" (pp. 13-22)
5. **By Friday Sept. 6, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)
6. **By Sunday Sept. 8, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)

Week 2: Sept. 9-15, 2019

Interpretation to Biblical Interpretation: Texts and Readers

Assignments:

1. Read Tiffany and Ringe ch. 1 and 2
2. Read Gorman ch. 8
3. **By Friday Sept. 13, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)
4. **By Sunday Sept. 15, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)

Week 3: Sept. 16-22, 2019

Engaging Biblical Texts (pt. 1)

Assignments:

1. Read Tiffany and Ringe chs. 3-5
2. Read Gorman ch. 18
3. **By Friday Sept. 20, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)
4. **By Sunday Sept. 22, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)

Week 4: Sept. 23-27, 2019 (Face to Face Sessions at PLNU)

(Note: no assignments are due this week other than submitting to the professor the biblical passage you would like to do for your final exegetical paper. This will be due at the end of the week. You will need a passage that works as a continuous unit and is about 10-12 verses in length).

*Be sure to bring all your textbooks and course materials to class with you each day

Schedule:

-Mon. Sept. 23, 2019: 1:00-5:00pm (plus dinner provided after class)

-Tues. Sept. 24, 2019: 8:00am-5:00pm

-Wed. Sept. 25, 2019: 8:00am-5:00pm

-Thur. Sept. 26, 2019: 8:00am-5:00pm

-Fri. Sept. 27, 2019: 8:00am-Noon

**Submit the passage you have chosen for your final exegetical paper to the professor before the end of class on Friday.*

Week 5: Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2019

Engaging the Biblical Texts

Assignments:

1. Skim (only) back through Tiffany and Ringe chs. 3-5

2. Read Gorman chs. 10 and 12

3. **By Friday Oct. 4, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)

4. **By Sunday Oct. 6, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)

5. **By Friday Oct. 4, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Using your chosen biblical passage for your final exegetical paper, post your exegetical research notes (a summary of your notes or individual notes listings—either is ok) for the following research items (drawn from the Tiffany and Ringe book): (500-1,000 words)

- a. first impressions
- b. past and other experiences with your text
- c. differences in several translations
- d. structure and shape of your text
- e. comparing with texts of similar material

Week 6: Oct. 7-13, 2019

Engaging Biblical Texts and Reading through Diverse Lenses

Assignments:

1. Read Gorman chs. 16 and 17

2. **By Friday Oct. 11, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)

3. **By Sunday Oct. 13, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)

4. **By Friday Oct. 11, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Using your chosen biblical passage for your final exegetical paper, post your exegetical research notes (a summary of your notes or individual notes listings—either is ok) for the following research items (drawn from the Tiffany and Ringe book): (500-1,000 words)

- a. literary context
- b. social context

Week 7: Oct. 14-20, 2019

Engaging Biblical Texts and Reading through Diverse Lenses

Assignments:

1. Read Gorman chs. 19 and 21
2. **By Friday Oct. 18, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)
3. **By Sunday Oct. 20, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)
4. **By Friday Oct. 18, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Using your chosen biblical passage for your final exegetical paper, post your exegetical research notes (a summary of your notes or individual notes listings—either is ok) for the following research items (drawn from the Tiffany and Ringe book): (500-1,000 words)
 - a. your own concerns, biases, cares, context with regard to the passage (see p.112)
 - b. entering into dialogue with others

Week 8: Oct. 21-27, 2019

Conclusions

Assignments:

1. Read Tiffany and Ringe ch. 11
2. **By Friday Oct. 25, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post three reading observations that you draw from the overall batch of readings for this week (not three from each reading) (ca. 400 words total)
3. **By Sunday Oct. 27, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Post responses to two classmates' observations that they posted from the week's readings (ca. 200 words total)
4. **By Friday Oct. 25, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT:** Submit your final exegetical paper (ca. 3,500 words [or ca. 14 pages, typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides])