



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

BIB 1001-3 Old Testament History and Religion

2 Units ~ *Spring 2024*

Meeting days/times: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:25

Meeting location Rohr Hall (RH) 108

Final Exam: Tues 4/30/2024 10:30-1:00

Instructor title and name:	Professor Rachel Herman, M.A.
Email:	rachelherman@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Th 10:30-11:30, by appointment. Smee Hall

“I always thought that the Bible was more of a salad thing, you know, but it isn’t. It’s a chocolate thing.” – Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz*

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

PLNU 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

BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion (FE) (2 Units)

Within the context of the history of Israel, an overview of the literature of the Old Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.

The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is a lengthy and complicated collection of ancient material. As such, no two-unit course can provide anything like a comprehensive treatment. This course will be a selective introduction to the Old Testament with a focus on literary structure and interpretation (genre, imagery, theme, world of the text, etc.) while also touching on the Ancient Near Eastern historical context, relevant archeological findings, textual development, historical-cultural impacts on interpretation, and theological perspectives.

Course Learning Outcomes (School of Theology and Christian Ministry)

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

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the Old Testament.
- 2) Articulate the unity of the Old Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

Course Objectives - Learner

- Demonstrate foundational knowledge of important people, events, concepts, and themes found in the Old Testament and the Ancient Near East
- Analyze a biblical passage with special attention to genre, imagery, theme, cultural context, and historical context
- Participate in the spiritual/cognitive practice of reflection
- Articulate meaningful takeaways
- Become a better thinker

Course Objectives – Instructor

- Provide an *introduction* to the Old Testament that inspires and equips learners for further exploration
- Keep it interesting
- Create a classroom environment that invites dialog, fosters creative thinking, and encourages the dynamic exchanges of ideas

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

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Course Texts

Required

1. Primary Source: A paper copy of the Old Testament in a standard English translation (**must bring to class**).
2. Secondary Sources:
 - a. Brad E. Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story: God's Mission and God's People*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017.
 - b. Various articles and videos - see Canvas for assignment details

Recommended

1. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (NRSV). Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
2. *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (NLT). Tyndale House, 2006. **Filament edition**

Additional Recommended Resources

1. YouVersion App
2. Filament App (with linked Bible)
3. biblehub.com
4. bibleproject.com
5. blueletterbible.org

Course 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 2-unit class delivered over 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 75 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. **This equates to approximately 2.25 hours per class session.**

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation and Attendance: The best learning environments are those that invite active engagement and foster participation and dialog. While there will be a foundation of information for you to learn, I am much more interested in helping you learn to think well, express your thoughts

succinctly, and examine the rationale (or lack thereof) behind your claims. To this end, the class, as a group, will have the opportunity to earn up to 5 points per week for participate.

Points will be awarded at the instructor's discretion for

- a. Asking good questions
- b. Active engagement
- c. Thoughtful responses
- d. The involvement of many

Points may be deducted at the instructor's discretion for

- a. Disrespectful, disruptive, or distracting behavior
- b. Monopolizing conversation
- c. Inappropriate or distracting use of devices

2. Reading/viewing + quizzes: The Old Testament text is the primary source material for this course. Secondary reading and viewing material will come from various sources. All readings and viewings are required unless otherwise noted. **Please bring paper Bible to class.** It is important to keep up with the assignments on a session-by-session basis or the information will quickly become overwhelming. The reading/viewing assignments provide the necessary foundation to be prepared for the lecture and discussion portion of the class. *A significant part of the student's grade comes from quizzes conducted in Canva over the assigned reading material which are due prior to each class session (see below).*

All quizzes will be available on Canva from the end of the previous class until the beginning of the next class period (9:29). Quizzes are open book and there is no time limit, however, they may only be submitted once. The order of quiz questions is randomized, so reading through the questions before you work through the assigned material is recommended.

3. Exams: There will be two exams that cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures, a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. The dates of the exams are listed on the course schedule and study guides will be provided.
4. Interpretation exercise: You will analyze a passage of Scripture with special attention to genre, imagery, theme, cultural context, historical context, and theological ramifications. Details of this exercise will follow. A rubric and recommended sources will be provided. You will select a passage of your choice, pending professor approval. All students will work with the Loma Writing Lab to finalize their work prior to submission. Assignment is 2-3 pages. Use of AI is not allowed.

Tips for success:

- Be concise and thoughtful
- Avoid BS
- Don't repeat yourself
- Take a thinking risk

5. Final Exam + Interview: As the culmination of the semester, the final exam will include two portions, the written exam and a 5-minute interview with the professor. The 5 potential interview questions will be provided in advance and one 3x5 card will be allowed during the interview. Students will be able to sign up for their interview time during the regular final exam slot. A limited number of interview slots will also be available at earlier times during finals week. **The final exam will take place in the classroom on the scheduled day and time for the class's final exam** according to the university's final exam schedule.

If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Assessment and Grading

The student's grade will be based on a combination of class participation, reading, assignments, and exams as follows:

<u>Total Grade %</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
10%	Class participation (group scoring, up to 5 points per week)
40%	Reading/viewing quizzes
15%	Mid-term Exam
15%	Interpretation Exercise
20%	Final Exam

Total: 100%

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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

Prepare. Show Up. Participate.

Course Policies

1. Attendance: In this abbreviated journey through the story of the OT, class attendance is a necessity for optimum academic achievement. *If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings (more than THREE [3] classes), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (more than SIX [6] classes), the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.* See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. In addition, each student is expected to participate actively in class by contributing to the discussions on the basis of his or her reading of the assigned material. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes, etc. from other students for any missed classes.

**NOTE: Giving false information on the daily roll sheet (i.e. signing someone else in or having someone else sign you in) is an act of cheating that is equal to cheating on an exam. It will subject you to the academic dishonesty penalties of the university, including failure of this course and possible expulsion from the university.*

2. Participation:

“Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.” – John Holt.

This class will invite participation, engagement, and active learning. You will get much more out of our time together if you participate. If you choose not to participate, please select seats in the back of the room. Take a thinking risk.

3. Punctuality: This class will begin promptly at 9:30am and we will make it our habit to begin with a time of reflection. So as not to disturb this time, students who are tardy will need to wait outside until the reflection time is completed. At 9:30 the classroom door will be closed and a notice will be posted. If you arrive after 9:30, please remain outside until the door is opened again and the notice is removed, at which time you may join the class.
4. Late Work: In order not to be considered “late,” all assignments must be submitted by the day and time listed as the due date. *Grace Period*: If the student “forgets” or otherwise misses an assignment, she or he may submit it up to one week after the due date for no more than half credit. *No assignment will be accepted for credit of any kind more than one week after the original due date.* Reading/viewing quizzes are not eligible to receive credit after the quiz closes and may not be made up. (NOTE: Any *extra-credit* assignments must be submitted on or before the due date and will not be accepted late for credit of any kind).

5. Devices and media:

“The respect you give to others is a dramatic reflection of the respect you give yourself.” – Robin S. Sharma.

Respect is something you earn, but respectful behavior is a gift you give to others. You are adults and I will treat you that way. I'm not here to babysit you. I will respect your time and I trust you to respect mine. There are no restrictions on electronics in the classroom, however, if you are distracted by a device or creating a distracting environment for others, you will be asked to put your device away and/or leave the classroom. It's my job to be interesting. It's your job to be engaged. There are legitimate and illegitimate uses for all devices. The standard we hold here is respectful behavior for me and your fellow learners. Please ensure that you silence all devices.

Regardless of what someone else is doing, YOU are responsible for yourself and your own learning. Please make appropriate adjustments to ensure your personal learning needs are met.

6. Zoom Lectures: Due to my scheduling constraints, a few of our sessions will be conducted over Zoom. The punctuality and participation policies will also apply in the Zoom setting. For attendance to count for a Zoom session, your camera must remain on for the entire session. Respect is the standard.
7. Zoom Recordings: May be available for each lecture (TBD). Viewing does not count as attendance. Links will be posted on Canva.
8. Communication: I will be available for office hours on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 in Smee Hall. Please use link on Canva to sign up for a slot. I will also be available via Zoom during other times on an as-needed basis (if you cannot meet after class on Thurs). **To request a zoom meeting time or communicate with me via email regarding this course, please do so in Canva rather than via my PLNU email address.** This will ensure that I will see your email and it will not get lost in the morse that is the PLNU gmail inbox.
9. Language: PLNU is committed to the equality of all people. The intentional use of derogatory or demeaning language is not permitted. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating all people with dignity. We are also aware that language and its use change over time, as do the values and norms of culture. Some language used historically in one way would mean something very different if applied by a contemporary writer in 2024. This course will strive to be aware of these nuances and practice sensitivity toward and foster respect for all people while also being willing to engage historical language on its own terms. In the finest academic tradition, this class will invite and hold space for the respectful discussion of even radically differing and controversial viewpoints and affirm the classical liberal value of free speech.

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.” – Robert Frost

10. Academic Honesty: **Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course.** 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.

11. Artificial Intelligence (AI): Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not necessary for this class, does not provide and advantage to the learners, and therefore is not permitted. The use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism. Please use the tools under course materials and additional resources above to complete your interpretation exercise assignment. Everything necessary for outstanding work in this course is provided there

12. Academic Accommodations: 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.

If you require accommodations, **please make an appointment to meet with me during office hours within the first two weeks of the semester** so we can discuss the implementation of your accommodations for this course and I can learn how best to support you in meeting the course requirements.

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.

13. 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.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma

Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism. Please use the tools under "additional resources" above and the assignment description to complete your interpretation exercise assignment.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

You will be required to work with the Loma Writing Center in order to complete your Interpretation Exercise assignment. Please plan accordingly.