



**Department/School Name** School of Theology & Christian Ministry

**Course Number and Name** BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion

**Number of Units** 2

Spring 2024

<b>Meeting days:</b> Mon & Wed	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Dr Stephanie Smith Matthews
<b>Meeting times:</b> 11:00-11:55	<b>Phone:</b> 619-849-2950
<b>Meeting location:</b> Starkey B 100	<b>Email:</b> smatthew@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> Fri, May 3, 10:00-1:00	<b>Office location and hours:</b> email for appointment
<b>Additional info:</b>	<b>Additional info:</b>

### 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.

#### FE MISSION STATEMENT

*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 cultures.*

**FE Learning Outcome 3:** This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of “Responding to the Sacred.” By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values. **FELO3** is assessed in the midterm exam.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to open a conversation (that will hopefully last a lifetime) about the Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Bible). The class provides an introduction to (1) the literature/content of the Old Testament in its social, historical, literary, and theological contexts; and (2) the critical study of the Old Testament. Along these lines, this course is designed as a *journey*, which serves to introduce the student to the basic content of the divine-human drama that unfolds within the pages of the Bible and to equip the student with the foundational tools and skills to continue the dialogue with that drama throughout his or her life.

Cognitive development will be encouraged through textbook readings, classroom discussions/lectures, and periodic examinations. Social development will be encouraged through small group discussions and exercises as well as through the relating of biblical concepts to contemporary social issues. Spiritual development will be encouraged through a dialogue with the dynamic faith of the Christian Scripture, a faith that grew out of the community of believers and continues to challenge and shape that community in contemporary settings.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Michael Coogan, et.al., eds., *New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (5<sup>th</sup> Oxford: Oxford University, 2018), ISBN: 9780190276072.
2. Brad E. Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story: God's Mission and God's People* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2017), <https://pointloma.on.worldcat.org/oclc/995162563>.
3. Matthew Richard Schlimm, *This Strange and Sacred Scripture: Wrestling with the Old Testament and Its Oddities* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015), ISBN: 9780801039799.
4. Online resources posted to Canvas modules.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

**Readings (or viewings) & Weekly Homework:** The OT is the primary text for this course. *Please have your Bible at hand for our class sessions.* All readings are required. It is important to keep up with the readings on a session-by-session basis or the information will quickly

become overwhelming. *A significant part of the student's grade comes from **weekly** homework and/or quizzes over the assigned reading material (see below).* These will be due on **Wednesdays**. Students completing 11 assignments may drop their lowest score; students completing 12 may drop the two lowest scores.

**Mid-Term exam:** The midterm exam will cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures through the first quad. A study guide will be provided. It will be timed and open book/open note.

**Group Work:** Each student will be assigned to a small group to facilitate discussion and processing of course material. Occasionally you will be asked to submit a short assignment which you will begin (and often finish) in class.

**Final project:** As the culmination to the semester, there will be a final project due (submitted online) during our final exam period. We will practice these skills on Mondays, especially during the second half of the semester. You will have a choice of format (paper, video, visual presentation, etc.) A complete instruction sheet and rubric will be provided. Briefly, you will be asked to: Choose any passage (about 10 verses) from the Old Testament and reinterpret it in two ways:

- 1) A historical interpretation: how might the Hebrew people exiled from their land interpret this passage? How might they compare it to their situation? What message from God (hope, guidance, peace, etc.) might they find as they reinterpret this passage for their time?
- 2) A contemporary application for today: how might people today interpret this passage? How might they compare it to their situation? What message from God (hope, guidance, peace, etc.) might they find as they reinterpret this passage for their time?

**Extra Credit:** Students wishing to receive extra credit may submit a 3-4 page essay reflection on attendance of one of the Wiley lectures that was not required for class. Interested students should contact the instructor for the rubric. Students may earn up to 2% to add to the overall grade.

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Assignment distribution by percentage:

- 35% Readings and Weekly Check-ins
- 25% Midterm Exam
- 15% Group Work
- 25% Final Project

Grades will be based on the following:

<b>Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages</b>				
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

## **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.

## **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

## **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**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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 until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

### **Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition**

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

## **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 students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

## 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* information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact [student-tech-request@pointloma.edu](mailto:student-tech-request@pointloma.edu).

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