

	<p>Department/School Name School of Theology & Christian Ministry</p> <p>Course Number and Name BIB 4014 Old Testament Prophets & the Holy Imagination: Power, Gender, Justice, & Economics</p> <p>Number of Units 3</p>
Spring 2024	

Meeting days: Tue & Thurs	Instructor title and name: Dr Stephanie Smith Matthews
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45	Phone: 619-849-2950
Meeting location: Smee Wesley	Email: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Tue, Apr 30, 1:30-4:00	Office location and hours: Smee 211 email for 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.

Course Description

A study of the prophetic phenomena in the Old Testament, setting each book in its historical and canonical context, with attention to how these books speak to ancient and contemporary issues related to power, gender, justice, and economics.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe a prophetic book of the Old Testament in its historical and canonical context
2. Articulate biblical stances on power, gender, justice, and economics from within its prophetic traditions
3. Identify movements and persons that reflect elements of biblical prophetic justice

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. Study Bible of your choice.
2. Online resources posted to Canvas modules.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Readings (or viewings) & Weekly Homework: The Bible is the primary text for this course. *Please have your Bible at hand for our class sessions.* All readings are required. *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 **Thursdays**. Students completing 11 assignments may drop their lowest score; students completing 12 may drop the two lowest scores. Class preparation for Thursdays is required and will inform our class discussions. (CLO #1-3)

Prophetic Justice Example Essay: Write a 5-6 page (double spaced) essay on a person or organization you deem to be reflective of the values of prophetic justice. You will tell their story around the central question: "How does this person/movement reflect the values of prophetic justice as we have encountered them in the Bible?" The strongest essays will begin by summarizing a vision of biblical prophetic justice (using specific biblical citations). (CLO #3)

Biblical Prophet Class Presentation & Discussion Leadership: Each student will be assigned one biblical prophet or prophetic book on which to become a specialist. You will present your findings to the class and facilitate class discussion on the figure/book, its key themes and applications. Students will submit a bibliography (with at least 10 scholarly sources, including at least 2 biblical commentaries) prior to their presentation. An instruction sheet and rubric will be provided. (CLO #1)

Group Work: Students will regularly engage in small groups 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. (CLO #1-3)

Final project: As the culmination to the semester, there will be a final project due (submitted online) during our final exam period. 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 demonstrate your understanding of biblical concepts of justice and their applications in thorough conversation with specific biblical prophets, prophetic works, and critical biblical scholarship of them. (CLO #1-2)

Extra Credit: Students wishing to receive extra credit may submit a 3-4 page essay reflection on attendance of one of the Wiley lectures. 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 Homework
- 15% Prophetic Justice Example Essay
- 15% Biblical Prophet Class Presentation & Discussion Leadership
- 10% Group Work
- 25% Final Project

Grades will be based on the following:

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 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. 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.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Old Testament Prophets and the Holy Imagination, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include the nature of divine communication, injustices in the world and among God's people, and discussions of God's judgment and forgiveness. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Old Testament Prophets and the Holy Imagination, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include life and death, warfare, sex trafficking (in one class period), and abuse of power including by those in religious leadership. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic

is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of biblical studies, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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.

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](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text,

video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

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.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

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 "people," "humanity," "humans," and "he or she" better acknowledge women as full persons.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

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.