

THE3005: Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences

Summer 2024 | Session II

Fully Online

June 10 - July 12

Meeting Days/ Times: Online Asynchronous

Meeting Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Sam Powell

Email: spowell@pointloma.edu

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 cultures.

COURSE 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

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Interpret relevant biblical texts responsibly.
 2. Analyze the elements of the Christian doctrine of creation.
 3. Appraise the significance of scientific theories for Christian theology.
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FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (FELO)

1. Demonstrate the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its dialog with the natural sciences.
 2. Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.
 3. Demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.
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REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Enns, Peter. (2012). *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible does and doesn't say about human origins*. Brazos Press.
 2. Jeeves, Malcolm & Brown, Warren. (2009). *Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion: Illusions, Delusions, and Realities about Human Nature* (Templeton Science and Religion Series). Templeton Press.
 3. Lamoureux, Denis. (2016). *Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes*. Zondervan.
 4. Heath, Elaine. *Five Means of Grace*. Abingdon Press
 5. McGrath, Alister. (1998). *"I Believe": Exploring the Apostles' Creed*. InterVarsity Press.
 6. Other resources located online
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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 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request. (Based on 37.5 hours of student engagement per credit hour.)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours	
Category	Time Expectation in Hours
Online Participation in Discussions, Groups, etc.	40
Reading Assignments	45
Written Assignments	10
Other Assignments & Learning Activities	15
Quizzes, Surveys	2.5
Total Hours	112.5

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading Distribution

Category	Weight (%)
Discussion	24%
Spiritual Formation Paper	10%
Lectio Divina / Short Essay (I Believe)	10%
Essays	30%
Exam	26%
Total	100

Student grades will be posted in the Canvas grade book no later than midnight on Tuesday of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the comments posted in the grade book as these comments are intended to help students improve their work.

Final grades will be posted within one week of the end of the class.

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 [Class 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.

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

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

[Links to an external site.](#) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for 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 ensure 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 until the university drop date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS

1. **In-Person:** Course meetings are face-to-face with no more than 25% online delivery.
2. **Online:** Coursework is completed 100% online and asynchronously.
3. **Online Synchronous:** Coursework is completed 100% online with required weekly online class meetings.
4. **Hybrid:** Courses that meet face-to-face with required online components.

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](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

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.

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SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware that PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. 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 Life and Formation](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 help and support are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is 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 the [Title IX Office | Get Help Now](#)

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.](#)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid 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, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

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

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SYLLABUS POLICY

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and the use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 13, 2022	Quiz Academic Honesty Verification Statement	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 10, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Introduce Yourself Page Week 1 Overview	due by 11:59pm to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jun 11, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Discussion of Lamoureaux, Ch. 1 and Notes on Biblical Interpretation	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 12, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Discussion of Enns, Chapter 1	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 13, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Discussion of Enns, Chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 14, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 1 Discussion of Enns, chapter 3	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 15, 2024	Assignment Wk 1 Lectio Divina: Genesis 1:1-2:4	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 16, 2024	Assignment Wk 1 "I Believe" assignment	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 17, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Discussion of Enns, chapter 4 Page Week 2 Overview	due by 11:59pm to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jun 18, 2024	Assignment Wk 2 Essay exam on Enns Assignment Wk 2 Essay on Enns	due by 11:59pm due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 19, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Discussion of Lamoureux, Chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 20, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Discussion of Lamoureux, Chapter 3	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 21, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 2 Discussion of Lamoureux, Chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 22, 2024	Assignment Wk 2 Lectio Divina: Psalm 104	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 23, 2024	Assignment Wk 2 "I Believe" Assignment	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 24, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Discussion of Lamoureux, Chapter 5 Page Week 3 Overview	due by 11:59pm to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jun 25, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Discussion of Lamoureux, Chapters 7-8	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 26, 2024	Assignment Wk 3 Essay on Lamoureux's Book	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 27, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 28, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 3 Discussion of 2 Articles on the Brain	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 29, 2024	Assignment Wk 3 Lectio divina: Some NT passages	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 30, 2024	Assignment Wk 3 "I Believe" Assignment Quiz Wk 3 Mid-Course Survey Assignment Wk 3 Spiritual Formation Paper	due by 11:59pm due by 11:59pm due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jul 1, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion chapter 5 Page Week 4 Overview	due by 11:59pm to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jul 2, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 3, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion chapter 7	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 5, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 4 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion Chapter 8 (pp. 108-117)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jul 6, 2024	Assignment Wk 4 Lectio divina: Romans 1:18-23	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 7, 2024	Assignment Wk 4 "I Believe" Assignment	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 8, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 5 Discussion of Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion Chapter 8, pp. 117-127 Page Week 5 Overview	due by 11:59pm to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jul 9, 2024	Assignment Wk 5 Essay exam on Jeeves & Brown Assignment Wk 5 Essay on Jeeves and Brown's Book	due by 11:59pm due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 10, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 5 Discussion: Creation Care	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jul 11, 2024	Discussion Topic Wk 5 Discussion: Three Models	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 12, 2024	Assignment End-of-Course Evaluation	due by 11:59pm due by 11:59pm