School of Theology and Christian Ministry

BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion

2 Units
Spring 2026

Meeting days:

Monday/Wednesday

Section 2: 1-1:55pm Rohr Hall 108

Section 7: 2:30-3:25pm Rohr Hall 108

Final Exams:

Section 2) Friday 5/8 1:30-4pm
Section 7) Wednesday 5/6 1:30-4pm

Instructor title and name:	Amy Cuthbert Dmin Adjunct Professor of Bible and Theology
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Email:	acuthber@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	PLNU Main Campus Smee Hall in the Wesleyan Center (By Appointment only)

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

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.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

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.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Two signature assignments will be given to assess the students understanding of basic GE requirements. One will be a written assignment where the students respond to a prompt and demonstrate their ability to interact with the biblical text in a way that reflects the information related to this course. This includes correct citation involving biblical passages. The second signature assignment will be an oral presentation that asses their ability to understand the information presented in this course in a clear and constructive manner.

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

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https://assessment.pointloma.edu/academic-assessment/general-education/assessment-plan/

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. *NIV, Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*. 2016. Zondervan.
2. Goldingay, John. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL 2015.

Students are responsible for having the required course timebooks prior to the first day of class. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, books excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your academic use. This material may be protected by copywrite law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

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.

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Participation and 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 based on their reading of the assigned material.

Attendance will be self-reported on a roll sheet.

**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.*

- **Readings, Assignments, and Quizzes**: The OT is the primary text for this course. All readings and assignments are required. *Please bring your NIV Study Bible to class*. It is important to keep up with the readings on a session-by-session basis or the information will quickly become overwhelming. Quizzes and Exams: There will be *three* that cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures. The dates of the quizzes and exams are listed on the course schedule and study guides will be provided.

- **Midterm Paper (Signature Assignment): Old Testament Prophetic Voices within the Modern Context**: This ***four-page double spaced (not including the Bibliography)*** paper will reflect lecture information in class over the minor prophets in the Old Testament. Choose one minor prophet (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) and compare the historical context of their message during their historical era with issues today. Would their message be relevant in today's world? Use the Bible, your textbook, and outside Bible commentaries and dictionaries to support your perspective. Make sure to include quotations and a bibliography done with MLA or Chicago citation (you should have at least three including your Bible and textbook).

- **Old Testament and the Arts (Possible Group Project):** This is your opportunity to engage with the Old Testament in a creative way. Choose **one** passage, theme, or book from the Old Testament and express what you have learned using art, technology, or any other creative form and present your work in front of the class. Each presentation should be 2-5 minutes. All projects should address these three questions: 1) What type of literature/historical era does your project represent from the Old Testament and what main biblical themes are expressed through this presentation? 2) Why did you choose this passage from the OT and what does this mean to you? 3) What did you learn about the Old Testament in preparing and presenting this project and what have you learned from this class? 4) How did you create this project step by step and why do you like this area of artistic expression?

  Uploaded to Canvas: At least a 4 slide Power Point presentation answering the above questions and citing the scripture used (this can be used as your notes during your presentation). Include pictures of your final project if possible.

  Example Ideas:

  1. *Create a scale model of the Old Testament Tabernacle or 1st or 2nd Temple*. This can be created digitally or as a physical model.
  2. *Compose a song* from the book of Psalms or create your own Psalm that reflects your relationship (or struggles) with life and God. Perform this song in front of the class using instruments and/or singing.

3. *Preach a prophetic sermon*: using the format of the Old Testament prophets compose a sermon that speaks to the relevant social issues in the world today. Preach this before the class making sure everyone in your group participates. Use prophetic imagery including props and/or symbolism.
4. *Paint or draw a picture* of a scene from the Old Testament on canvas, pottery, or digital artwork. Make sure to include in your drawings important elements from the lessons learned from this OT event/story.
5. *Dance or acting:* Perform through dance or drama a scene from the Old Testament. Include the important lessons from this story, costumes, music and/or dialog that brings the scene to life.
6. *Create a journal:* Create a journal of one of the OT characters including their thoughts, drawings, poems, collected items etc.

- *Low points will be given for coloring book or AI artwork due to lack of effort and creativity.*

Final Exam: As a culmination of the semester there will be a final comprehensive exam. It will cover all the material from our in-class quizzes and PowerPoint lecture material (in canvas). 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 schedule.

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

Assignment	**Percentage**
Quizzes	30%
Reading Assignments	10%
Attendance	10%
Midterm Paper: Prophets Today	15%
Presentation: OT and the Arts	20%
Final Exam	15%

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.

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 History and Religion in 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 [list topics]. 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 History and Religion, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. 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 [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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.

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 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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel. Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI
APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT
Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

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PLNU Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.

   Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.

   Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.

2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

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.

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.

- Appointment Calendar: https://plnu.mywconline.com/
- Website: https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center

Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

LomaBooks Instructions for Students:

This course is part of our course material delivery program, LomaBooks. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas. You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about LomaBooks, please go: here

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE – Dates/Assignments May Change – These will be reflected in Canvas

Week Number	**Date**	**Topic**	**Assignments Due**
Week 1	1-12	Review Syllabus *Intro to the Old Testament: What the OT is NOT*	None
	1-14	*Intro to the Old Testament: Languages and Translations*	Assignment 1
Week 2	1-19	**No School MLK Day**	

	1-21	*Introduction to the Old Testament: Genres and Main Themes*	Assignment 2
Week 3	1-26	*The Torah:* ***Genesis****:* ***1-11***	Assignment 3
	1-28	***Genesis****:* ***12-50***	Assignment 4
Week 4	2-2	***Exodus***	Assignment 5
	2-4	***Leviticus*** *and* ***Numbers***	Assignment 6
Week 5	2-9	***Deuteronomy***	Assignment 7
	2-11	***Library Presentation*** *The Prophets:* **Joshua and Judges**	Assignment 8
Week 6	2-16	***Seminar on Citation of Scripture*** **1 and 2 Samuel**	Assignment 9 **Quiz Unit 1& 2**
	2-18	**1 and 2 Kings**	Assignment 10
Week 7	2-23	**Isaiah 1-39**, **Micah**, **Joel, and Hosea**	Assignment 11
	2-25	**Amos**, **Obadiah**, and **Jonah**	Assignment 12
Week 8	3-2	**Jeremiah**, **Nahum**	Assignment 13
	3-4	**Habakkuk**, **Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Isaiah 40-66**	Assignment 14
Week 9	3-9, 3-11	**No School: Spring Break**	Work on Mid-Term

			Paper
Week 10	3-16	**Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi**	**Mid-Term Paper Due** Assignment 15
	3-18	The Writings: **Ezra, and Nehemiah**	Assignment 16
Week 11	3-23	**Orton Wiley Lectures in Theology** ***Guest Lecturer: Dr. Catherine Keller*** **Lecture 1**: "Creation: Cosmos, Connection, Creativity *Monday March 23, 2026 11:00-11:50am, Crill Performance Hall **Lecture 2:** "Ecology: What's Coming?" *Monday March 23, 2026 1:30-2:20pm, Crill Performance Hall **Lecture 3:** "Gender: Tangles of Sex, Bodies, Politics" *Tuesday March 24, 2026 9:30-10:20am, Crill Performance Hall **Lecture 4:** "Hope: Embracing Planetude" *Wednesday March 25, 2026 8:30-9:20am, Crill Performance Hall	**Extra Credit on Quiz 3 (Up to 4 points)**
	3-25	Women in the OT: **Esther, and Ruth**	Assignment 17 **Quiz Unit 3**
Week 12	3-30	**Proverbs, Song of Song**	Assignment 18
	4-1	**1 & 2 Chronicles**	Assignment 19
Week 13	4-6	**No School Easter Break**	
	4-8	**Psalms, Lamentations**	Assignment 20
Week 14	4-13	**Job, and Ecclesiastes**	Assignment 21
	4-15	**Daniel**	Assignment 22 **Quiz Unit 4**

Week 15	4-20	***Jesus and the Old Testament***	**Prepare Arts Project**
	4-22	Arts Presentations and Review	**Projects Due**
	4-27	Arts Presentations and Review	**Projects Due**
	4-29	Arts Presentations and Review	**Projects Due**
FINALS Week		***Final Exam SECTION 2*** ***Final Exam SECTION 7***	***Section 2) Friday 5/8 1:30-4pm*** ***Section 7) Wednesday 5/6 1:30-4pm***