

Course Syllabus

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School of Theology & Christian Ministry

BIB 1001 Section 5, Spring 2026

Old Testament History & Religion

2 Units

Spring 2026

Meeting days: Mondays & Wednesdays

Instructor: Steve Rodeheaver

Meeting times: 11:00-11:55 AM

Phone: 619.865.3991

Meeting location: Liberty Station 204-A

Email: steverodeheaver@pointloma.edu

Office Hours: Email or text for an 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.

General Education 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 culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“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.”

This course is one of the components of the Foundational Explorations Program at PLNU, under the category of “Responding to the Sacred.” 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. 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.”

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the historical contexts of the Old Testament.
2. Articulate the unity of the Old Testament and New 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

GELO 3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.

Signature Assignment: Focusing on the understanding of Christian Scripture portion of this learning outcome, students will respond in writing to a question in a way that applies a reading of Old Testament texts to an issue of theological importance, citing Scripture responsibly. For BIB 1001, section 9, this signature assignment is an interpretive paper (see below).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. The *Bible* in a standard translation, such as *NIV*, *ESV*, *NRSV*, *NKJV*, *NASB*, etc. Single person translations and paraphrases are not acceptable. **ALWAYS BRING YOUR BIBLE TO CLASS!!!**

2. Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, 4th edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
3. Varughese, Alex, ed. *Discovering the Old Testament: Story and Faith*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.

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, approximately 2 hours per week in class and 3 hours per week outside of class.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Course Requirements:

1. **Old Testament Readings.** There are ten Old Testament reading assignments worth twenty points each. You will report your reading percentage for each Old Testament Reading assignment and you will write one paragraph on either something that surprised you, something you identified with, or something you learned from the reading. You may only report what you have read this semester. This is worth **10%** of your grade. (Learning outcomes 3, 4.)
2. The **Old Testament story and your story.** At the close of the semester you will write a three-page paper reflecting on an episode of Israel's story that connects with your story. This is worth **7%** of your grade. You may "build out" a passage that you have already reflected on or go with an entirely different passage. (Learning outcome 3.)
3. A **six-page, signature assignment, interpretive paper**, worth **18%** of your grade, in which you faithfully interpret an Old Testament passage and apply its theology to life today. You may select from a list of suggested passages or you may choose a different passage but it must be approved by the prof. Further instructions for this paper will be given. There is a 10 point penalty for late papers. (Learning outcomes 1, 3, 4, GELO 3)
4. **There will be three Module Learning Exams (two midterms and the final).** These will be open textbook, open Bible, and open note exams that cover the textbook readings and the lectures for each module. The purpose of each exam is not merely to measure what you have learned, but to increase your learning. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. (Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4.)
5. **Lecture Take-aways.** Each week students will submit a paragraph on their main "take-away" from the lectures of the week. These combine for **5%** of the total grade. (Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4.)
6. **Attend Class!!!** Attendance will be taken and school policies enforced. Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in 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.

Grade Scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	92-90	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Students taking online courses are expected to attend each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes posting in a graded activity in the course. (Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.)

Students who do not attend at least once in any 3 consecutive days will be issued an attendance warning. Students who do not attend at least once in any 7 consecutive days will be dropped from the course retroactive to the last date of recorded attendance.

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 \(https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures) 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 \(http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278\)](http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLEGEANCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) 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 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 619-849-2533). 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. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

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 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 other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

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.

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. 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. 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, 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. We will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. 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, 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 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](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation) (<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation>).

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](https://help.pointloma.edu/TDCClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349) (<https://help.pointloma.edu/TDCClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349>) 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 requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) 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.

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 \(https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/> (<https://plnu.mywconline.com/>)
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center> (<https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu (<mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu>)

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 16, 2026	 Week 1 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273862)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 17, 2026	 Week 1 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273864)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 23, 2026	 Week 2 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273876) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 24, 2026	 Week 2 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273877) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 30, 2026	 Week 3 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273878) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 31, 2026	 Week 3 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273879) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 6, 2026	 Week 4 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273880) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 7, 2026	 Week 4 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273881) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 13, 2026	 Week 5 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273882) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 14, 2026	 Week 5 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273883) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 15, 2026	 Module 1 Learning Exam (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273884) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 20, 2026	 Week 6 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273884) 	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sat Feb 21, 2026	 Week 6 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273885) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 27, 2026	 Week 7 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273886) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 28, 2026	 Week 7 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273887) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 6, 2026	 Week 8 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273888) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 7, 2026	 Week 8 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273889) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2026	 Week 9 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273890) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 21, 2026	 Week 9 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273891) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 27, 2026	 Week 10 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273865) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 28, 2026	 Week 10 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273866) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 29, 2026	 Module 2 Learning Exam (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273857) 	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Apr 3, 2026	 Week 11 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273867) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 4, 2026	 Week 11 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273868) 	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 8, 2026	 Interpretive Paper (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273861) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 10, 2026	 Week 12 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273869) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 11, 2026	 Week 12 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273870) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 17, 2026	 Week 13 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273871) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 18, 2026	 Week 13 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273872) 	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 24, 2026	 Week 14 Lecture Take-Away (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273873) 	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 25, 2026	 Week 14 Reading Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273874) 	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 29, 2026	 Story Paper (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273862) 	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Fri May 1, 2026	 Week 15 Lecture Take-Away https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273875 	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 6, 2026	 Module 3 Learning Exam & Final Exam Combined https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273858 	due by 11:59pm
	 BIB 1001 GE Assessment_Old Testament History and Religion https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/83473/assignments/1273860 	

