

Point Loma Nazarene University
Reuben Welch School of Theology & Christian Ministry
Spring Semester, 2026

Point Loma Nazarene University 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 becomes an expression of faith.

Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community
where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course: Theology 4095 – Justice in the Church:
Gender, Households, and Unity in the Body of Christ
Tuesdays, 3 - 5:30 p.m., Smee Hall Seminar Room

Professor: Dr. Michael Lodahl. Office Smee 205; cell (858) 405-3184

Texts: Boedy, Matthew. *The Seven Mountains Mandate: Exposing the Dangerous Plan to Christianize America and Destroy Democracy*

Keller, Catherine. *Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy, and Other Last Chances*

King, Martin Luther, Jr. *Strength to Love*

LeClerc, Diane and Peterson, Brent. *The Back Side of the Cross: Atonement Theology for the Abused and Abandoned*

Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror* (40th anniversary edition)

Course Description:

Catalogue description: The course will give special attention to the thought and practices of Christian righteousness in light of dynamics of inequity that have long faced Christian communities. Students will engage Christian tradition and contemporary life on the issues of the subjugation of women, economic alienation, slavery, racism and other structures of power. Approaches to these issues will be multi-disciplinary – underscoring the integration of biblical, theological, historical, and philosophical perspectives – and culminate in concrete practices of ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes. *Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:*

- 1) demonstrated growing awareness of pressing theological themes of liberation and human flourishing in theological writing of the past half-century;
- 2) adequately grasped the practical implications of the themes in #1 above for ecclesiology (doctrine of the church) and Christian ministry;
- 3) demonstrated the ability to reflect critically and creatively on the integration of biblical, theological, historical and philosophical models of interpretation; and
- 4) further developed communication skills, both oral and written, in theological vocabulary and discourse.

Course Requirements:

- Consistent and conscientious reading of assigned texts for each seminar session

(CLO 1).

- Consistent class attendance and participation (CLOs 1, 3). Because this is a weekly seminar, any more than one absence during this semester will have a dramatically deleterious effect upon semester grade. For any anticipated absence(s), please notify the professor. *This attendance requirement includes at least one of Catherine Keller's lectures in this spring's Wiley Lecture Series in Theology.*
- Weekly journal of notes, questions, reactions and random thoughts inspired by assigned reading, due on the Monday evening prior to class, no later than 8 p.m. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Leadership in discussion of one chapter of assigned reading during the semester. (CLOs 3, 4)

- A 10-12 page paper that will draw from course readings and discussions to explore implications for the vocation for which the student is preparing. This paper should include both theoretical and practical considerations, and should draw upon other resources as well (especially theological, religious, or pedagogical journal articles accessible in the PLNU library or database). (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Final examination, which will entail a presentation of the main ideas of one's paper for class discussion. (CLO 4)

Final Grade:

Will be determined on the basis of seminar attendance and participation (20%), weekly journal notes (33%), seminar discussion leadership opportunity (10% each), term paper (25%) and final exam / presentation of one's term paper (12%).

94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+;

73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69, D+; 60-66, D; 56-59, D-; below 56, F.

In computing final grade, I always round up on .5 or more.

Important Points Regarding Your Writing for this Class:

Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a critical role in your professor's evaluation of all your papers (CLO 4). Please avail yourselves of the services of a competent proofreader or the university's tutorial center.

Rubric for grading term paper:

60% content / concepts / ideas

20% clarity of expression / organization of ideas / paragraph usage

15% grammar / punctuation / capitalization

5% spelling

Point Loma Nazarene University's Reuben Welch School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the full equality and dignity of all people. Recognizing that human beings have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women and other marginalized people, the department strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.

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, or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's efforts. 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:

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy:

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 (note that for a weekly seminar, this is anything more than one absence), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (our four day's worth of 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.

Semester Academic Work Policy:

Please note that when the semester ends, so do all opportunities to work to improve your grade. No last-minute or after-the-fact appeals for extra credit will be even briefly considered.

Please Note the Following:

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. This policy assists the university in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty regarding academic work. It would be a bare minimum that any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a score of zero for the assignment in question; it is also within the professor's rights simply to fail the student for the course.

Course Calendar

January

13 – Introduction to the course and introduction of ourselves. Galatians 3:24 – 4:7. King, "A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart."

20 – Tribble, *Texts of Terror*, chapters 1 and 2.

27 – *Texts of Terror*, chapters 3 and 4.

February

3 – LeClerc and Peterson, *The Back Side of the Cross*

10 – *The Back Side of the Cross*

17 – *The Back Side of the Cross*

24 – Lodahl, excerpts from *Matthew Matters: Wisdom and the Church of Tomorrow*

The Yoke of

March

3 – Keller, *Facing Apocalypse*

10 – **Spring Break**

17 – *Facing Apocalypse*

24 – *Facing Apocalypse*.
year’s Wiley Lecturer) Catherine Keller will be joining us!

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31 – Boedy, *The Seven Mountains Mandate*

April

7 – *The Seven Mountains Mandate*

We have three students in this course who are working on honors projects, and we are giving them an opportunity to share the fruits of their labors with us in this seminar. For April 14, 21, and 28, one session each will go to presentations by Davie Bruce, Zach Darker, and Rianna Nowlin. They will choose which Tuesday they would like to present, and they will also choose respective readings for helping us to prepare for their sessions.

14 –

21 –

28 –

May

Final exam session: brief presentations by each of you on the main ideas in your term paper.

16 – Introduction of ourselves and the course; crucial biblical passages for the course’s rationale.

Please note that the readings assigned for the first two weeks are relatively light. I would suggest that a wise course would be to begin, as time and circumstance allow, reading Shelly Rambo’s book and keeping journal notes.

23 – Old Testament problematics. Phyllis Trible, *Texts of Terror*.

30 – New Testament quandaries. Various articles and essays chosen by professor.

February

6 – Shelly Rambo, *Resurrecting Wounds*

13 – finishing Rambo

Wed – Friday, Feb 14-16: Shelly Rambo's Wiley Lectures:

The 2017-2018 H. Orton Wiley Lectures in Theology

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Shelly Rambo

(Associate Professor of Theology, Boston University School of Theology)

Lecture Series: *Faith in Post-Traumatic Times: Encountering Resurrection Wounds*

February 14–16, 2018

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(all main lectures in Crill Performance Hall)

--Lecture #1: Lockdown: A Climate of Fear and "Posts"

*Wed. Feb. 14, 2018 11:00-11:50am

--Lecture #2: Seeing Invisible Wounds

*Wed. Feb. 14, 2018 1:30-2:20pm

--Lecture #3: Touching Invisible Wounds

*Thurs. Feb. 15, 2018 9:30-10:20am

--Lecture #4: Believing in the After-Living

*Fri. Feb. 16, 2018 8:30-9:20am

***Additional Event:** *Brewed Awakening Conversation* (sponsored by the Center for Justice and Reconciliation) on trauma, wounds, trafficking, and recovery-- Thursday Feb. 15, 2018 @ 3:30pm in Fermanian Conference Center

20 – Johnson, *Friends of God and Prophets*, 1-93.

27 – Johnson, 94-180.

March

5 – 9 Spring Break (no classes)

13 – Johnson, 181-262

22 (?) – *Forgive Us*, 17-108

27 – *Forgive Us*, 109-211

April

3 – Wheeler, *What We Were Made For*, 1-89 (and intro)

10 - Wheeler, 90-176

17 - final: presentations of term papers

24 - final, cont'd: presentations of term papers