

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
BIB 101 Old Testament History and Religion
Spring 2018

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This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Responding to the Sacred." 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will

- Identify the historical context of the Old Testament;
- Articulate the unity of the Old Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon;
- 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; and
- Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

REQUIRED READING:

- The Old Testament in a modern translation. Preferred versions include the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.
- Mobley, *Return of the Chaos Monsters*.
- Schlimm, *This Strange and Sacred Scripture*.
- Other reading as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. You may miss up to three sessions without penalty. Every absence after the third will result in a deduction of ½% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of ¼% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 6 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Essay: Based on your reading and study of the Old Testament this semester, plus your reading of the textbooks, write a short essay in which you respond to this question: What is the advantage of having the Old Testament as part of Christian scripture--what does it contribute to Christian scripture? As you write this essay, consider questions such as these:

- To what extent does the New Testament make the Old Testament obsolete, redundant, or irrelevant? What does the OT contribute to Christian scripture? Why does the Christian community keep the OT in its Bible?
- How do you deal with the fact that aspects of the Old Testament's morality are problematic?
- Does the Old Testament's portrait of God differ from the New Testament's?

Stipulations:

- The essay is due March 21 at class time.
- The essay should be two double spaced pages--approximately 750-800 words.
- It must be submitted via Canvas.
- You will be graded on the basis of 1) the extent to which you address the assigned topic; 2) the clarity and logic of your argument; and 3) spelling, grammar, and organization of ideas.

3. Weekly responses to assigned readings. There will be assigned reading for almost every class session. For each reading, submit, on Canvas, a brief response that:

- Briefly summarizes the main point of the reading.
- Indicates and discusses what you found to be the most interesting point of the reading.
- Indicates and discusses a problematic issue or question raised by the reading.

Each response should be approximately 400 words (one double spaced page).

4. Exams: There will be a midterm exam on February 28 and a final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Essay	75 points
Final exam	120
Mid-term exam	75
24 responses to the reading	72 (3 points each)

PLNU POLICIES

- **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.
- **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. **No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.**
- **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:** 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.

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- Computers and other electronic devices may not be used in class.
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- 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 department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

9-Jan	Orientation	
10-Jan	Martin Luther King, Jr.	
15-Jan	Prophecy	Amos 1-9; Isaiah 1-12
17-Jan	Prophecy	Schlimm 11
22-Jan	Prophecy	Mobley 3 & 4
24-Jan	Interpretation of Israel's history	Gen 12:1-9; 15; 17-1:22; Exodus 1-14; Exodus 32; Number 25; 1 Kings 11-12; 1 Kings 16:21-34; 2 Kings 17-25
29-Jan	Interpretation of Israel's history	Schlimm 4
31-Jan	Interpretation of Israel's history	Ezekiel 37, Jeremiah 30
5-Feb	Creation	Genesis 1-11, chapter 7 "Genesis"
7-Feb	Creation	Schlimm 2
12-Feb	Creation	Mobley 1
14-Feb	Creation	Schlimm 3
19-Feb	Wisdom	Proverbs 1-9; Leviticus 19; Psalm 15; Job 31
21-Feb	Wisdom	Mobley 6
26-Feb	Covenant and law	Exodus 19-20; Deuteronomy 1-12
28-Feb	Midterm exam	
5-Mar	Spring Break	
7-Mar	Spring Break	
12-Mar	Covenant and law	Schlimm 7
14-Mar	Covenant and law	Mobley 2
19-Mar	Covenant and law	Schlimm 8
21-Mar	Worship	Essay due
26-Mar	Eschatology	Isaiah 65:17-25; Jeremiah 31:27-34; 32:36-41; Ezekiel 11:14-20; 36:26-27; Ez.. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Jer. 23:5-6; Isa. 9:2-7; Isa.11:1-9; Joel 3; Isaiah 2:2-4
28-Mar	Eschatology	Mobley 7
2-Apr	Easter break	
4-Apr	Eschatology	Daniel 7-12; Zechariah 9-14
9-Apr	Psalms	Psalms 45, 72, 44, 147, 148, 116, 24, 38, 46, 48, 64, and 124
11-Apr	Psalms	Schlimm 10
16-Apr	Psalms	Mobley 5
18-Apr	The OT's authority	Schlimm 12
23-Apr	Canon and composition	Chapter 2 "Textuality"