

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY  
BIB 101 Old Testament History and Religion  
Fall 2017

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Office hours: MWF 8:30-9:30 and TTH 11:00-12:00. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

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*.
- Pdf file of a book on scripture.

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?
- 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 October 24 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 the manuscript on scripture. Nearly each week there will be an assignment on your reading of my manuscript on scripture. For each chapter, respond to the following:

- Briefly summarize the main point of the chapter.
- What is the most interesting point of the chapter?
- What part of the chapter made the most sense?
- Which part of the chapter made the least sense and needed more explaining?

You will complete and submit these assignments via Canvas.

4. Exams: There will be a midterm exam on October 17 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	80 points
Final exam	120
Mid-term exam	75
Ten responses to the book on scripture	80 (8 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](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- 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.