

Spring 2019

Meeting days: Mon & Wed	Instructor title and name: Prof. Stephanie Matthews
Meeting times: 8:30-9:25am	Phone: 619-849-2950
Meeting location: RLC 103	E-mail: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Fri, May 3 7:30-10:00am	Office location and hours: Tue/Thurs 2:45-4:30pm or by appointment (email request) Sme 211

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.

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.

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; and,
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

GE 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 cultures.

Note: 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Michael Coogan, et.al., eds., *New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University, 2018. ISBN: 9780190276072.
2. Brad E. Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story: God's Mission and God's People*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017. ISBN: 9781426793042.
3. Matthew Richard Schlimm, *This Strange and Sacred Scripture: Wrestling with the Old Testament and Its Oddities*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. ISBN: 9781426793042.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment distribution by percentage:		Grade scale:	
• Reading quizzes	30% (6% ea.)	A=94-100	C=74-76
• Midterm exam	20%	A-=90-93	C-=70-73
• Group presentation	20%	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
• Final Exam	25%	B=84-86	D=64-66
• Class Participation	5%	B-=80-83	D-=60-63
		C+=77-79	F=0-59

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

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 deenrolled 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 on the basis of his or her reading of the assigned material.

**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 & Reading Quizzes: The OT is the primary text for this course. All readings are required. *Please bring your 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. *A significant part of the student's grade comes from quizzes over the assigned reading material (see below).* There will be **five** quizzes that cover reading assignments. The dates of the quizzes are listed on the course schedule.

Mid-Term exam: The midterm exam will cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures. Questions from previous reading quizzes may appear on the midterm exam along with new questions. A study guide will be provided.

Group Presentation on an OT Book: In addition to more traditional methods of presentation by the professor, our course will have a significant element of small group work and discussion during various class sessions. Rather than a course in which the professor simply imparts a massive amount of information for students to regurgitate, students will work together to read closely, think collaboratively, and formulate thoughtful responses to texts and issues (an additional, hoped-for benefit of such assignments is to invite the students into the practices of true liberal arts education, namely, academic reading, thinking, collaborating, and writing, rather than outcome-based standardized test taking). The major instance of such work will be that each student will participate in an assigned small group and make a class presentation on an assigned book from the OT (groups and books will be assigned in class). The presentation should be **10 minutes in length** and **follow the instruction sheet attached to this syllabus**. Each group member will receive the same grade for the presentation. Due dates are listed on the course schedule

(NOTE: a one-page handout and powerpoint presentation must be emailed to the professor by noon on the day before your presentation).

Final Comprehensive exam: As the culmination to the semester, there will be a final, comprehensive final exam. It will cover all the material from the previous quizzes and exam. A study guide will be provided in class. The final exam will take place on the scheduled day and time for the class's final exam according to the university's final exam schedule.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE PRESENTED	Topic	Required Reading	Assessment
Tues. Jan. 8	Intro to the Class		
Wed. Jan 9	The Bible as Sacred Scripture	Schlimm 1-10	
Mon. Jan. 14	Origins of the Bible	Kelle 6-16	
Wed. Jan 16	The World Behind the Bible	Schlimm 104-120	Reading Quiz
<i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – no classes</i>			
Wed. Jan 23	The OT as Story	Kelle 17-28	
Mon. Jan. 28	Gen 1-11 Part I	Kelle 29-47	
Wed. Jan. 30	Darkness over the Face of the Deep	Schlimm 28-44	Reading Quiz
Mon. Feb. 4	Gen 1-11 Part II	Kelle 48-52	
Wed. Feb 6	Male & Female God Created Them	Schlimm 84-102	
Mon. Feb. 11	The Calling of God's People	Kelle 55-70	
Wed. Feb 13	The R-Rated Bible	Schlimm 45-60	Reading Quiz
Mon. Feb. 18	Creation of God's People	Kelle 70-79	*Exodus group
Wed. Feb 20	Wilderness to Sinai	Kelle 81-95	
Mon. Feb. 25	Law & Leaving Sinai	Kelle 95-109	*Deuteronomy
Wed. Feb 27	The Dynamic Nature of God's Law	Schlimm 121-138	Midterm Exam (Online) due Friday
<i>Spring Break – no classes</i>			
Mon. Mar. 11	God & Violence	Schlimm 62-82	
Wed. Mar. 13	Into the Land	Kelle 111-123	*Joshua
Mon. Mar. 18	Monarchy	Kelle 123-134	*Kings
Wed. Mar. 20	Prophets before the Exile	Kelle 163-171	
Mon. Mar. 25	Exile & Prophets in Exile	Kelle 135-142, 171-175	Reading Quiz
Wed. Mar. 27	Communal Lament	Schlimm 160-178	*Lamentations
Mon. Apr. 1	God's Anger	Kelle 180-196	
Wed. Apr. 3	Wisdom Literature	Kelle 151-163	Reading Quiz
Mon. Apr. 8	Return from Exile & Prophets after Exile	Kelle 142-149, 175-178	*Nehemiah
Wed. Apr. 10	The many voices in the OT	Schlimm 139-158	*Ruth
Mon. Apr. 15	The Ongoing Story of God	Kelle 179-194	*Joel
Wed. Apr. 17	The Authority of the OT	Schlimm 198-207	
<i>Easter Recess – No classes</i>			
Wed. Apr. 24	Final exam review		
Final Examination Fri., May 3, 7:30-10:30am			

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) 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, 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. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

