

Bib 101: Old Testament History and Religion (2 units)

Dr. Pantoja (pan-toe-ha)

Spring 2019

Pt. Loma Nazarene University

jpantoja@pointloma.edu

Section 5: M/W 8:30-9:25 am Evans Hall 114

Section 8: M/W 11–11:55 am Evans Hall 114

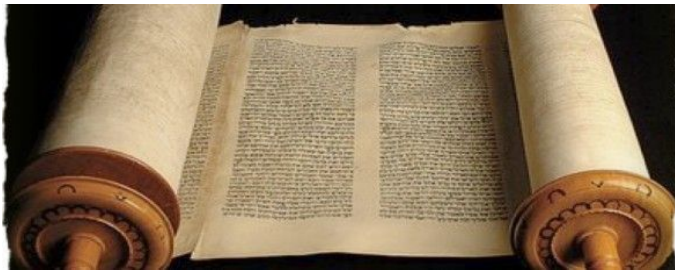
Student Hours Location: Tables Outside Point Break

Student Hours: M 12:00-12:40 pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Bib 101 will survey the historical, literary, and cultural context of the Old Testament Scriptures. The rich literary and prophetic traditions associated with this collection of books serves as a precursor to the Christian texts. Therefore, recognizing key themes and the basic layout of the Old Testament, will enhance both learning and devotion.

There is not enough time in one semester to grasp the entirety of this incredible literature, but we will engage deeply with specific texts. Some of the questions we will ponder: What is sacred space? How is the divine depicted in the Scriptures? What are some of the recognized theories of the canonization



process? How does God’s relationship with ancient Israel evolve throughout the texts? What is monotheism? Why is “land” a central theme in the meta-narrative? What clues are given in the Torah for the establishment of the monarchy at Jerusalem? How did Jewish sectarianism in the Second Temple period pave the way for the birth of the Jesus Movement?

My hope is that this course will not only strengthen your oral communication and critical thinking skills, but will also fortify your personal faith journey.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

- [Brad Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story* \(Abignon Press, 2017\)](#)
- [New Interpreter’s Study Bible- \(NRSV version\)](#)-optional or [Biblegateway.com](#)
- Readings linked into the syllabus
- [Bible Odyssey](#)-great resource for the latest research on the Bible

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Course attendance and participation (20%-[All GELOs](#)). 5 impromptu class writings (15%-GELO 1a;1d). The impromptu class writings are designed to assess if you are reading the required material for the course, as well as to assess your engagement with course topics. The dates for the impromptus will not be specified in advance. You can make-up ONE of the impromptu class writings by attending an approved lecture on campus and writing up the following [Impromptu Prompt](#). Participation (5%)-student participation is vital to the collaborative learning process. My lectures are interactive and students are encouraged to ask questions and comment on the material. You need to be in class to participate. Please notify me if you must be absent for illness or family emergency.
- 2) Written Assignments (20%): Wesleyan Lecture Assignment (10%-GELO 1a;1d;2a); Reflection Assignment (10%-GELO 1a;1d;2a). The Reflection assignment will give you an opportunity to think deeply about your experience with the course as a whole.
- 3) Group Presentation (15%-GELO 1b;1d;2b)-specific details forthcoming
- 4) Exams (45%-GELO 1a;1c;1d;1e). There will be a midterm exam week 8 (Feb 27) and a final exam week 16. These exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blanks, dates, passage identification, maps, and a series of short essays. A review sheet for the midterm will be posted on the syllabus week 6, and a review sheet for the final exam will be posted week 13.

GRADING/IMPORTANT DATES:

IMPROMPTU WRITING (5 TOTAL; 3 % EACH)	15%
MIDTERM (FEB 27)	20%
GROUP PRESENTATION	15%
WESLEYAN LECTURE WRITE-UP (DUE FEB 18)	10%
REFLECTION (DUE APR 17)	10%
PARTICIPATION	5%
FINAL EXAM (APR 29 OR MAY 3)	25%

Grade Scale:	
A=94-100	C=74-76
A-=90-93	C-=70-73
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=84-86	D=64-66
B-=80-83	D-=60-63
C+=77-79	F=0-59

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 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.

- 1) **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 cultures.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **Final Exam-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.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **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.
- 6) **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY-**While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty

who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses. If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

- 7) **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.
 - 8) **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.
-

PANTOJA CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

My classroom is a place where ideas are generated and discussed. We will not all agree on every single issue, but my expectation is that we will respect one another and think carefully about our word choice. I strive to foster a community of shared humanity where all students are appreciated and supported.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- This is a living document, which will continue to evolve throughout the semester. I reserve the right to change/alter this schedule as the course progresses.
- **Please note that all readings are required and to be completed before class on the day they are assigned (unless otherwise noted).**

Week 1

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Jan 8 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">● “A Professor’s Pointers For Success in College”● “On Office Hours” |
| Jan 9 | What is the Old Testament? <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ch 1: Introduction (pp. 1-16) |

Week 2

- Jan 14 Sacred Space Formation
- Ch 2: The Old Testament as Story (pp. 17-28)
 - [Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*](#) (pp. 20-29; 36-37)
- Jan 16 Eden Origins
- Ch 3: The Introduction of God's Mission (pp. 29-42)
 - OT: Genesis 1-3 (NIB: pp. 5-13)

Part 1: Torah/Pentateuch

Week 3

- Jan 21 **MLK Holiday-No Class!**
- Jan 23 The Documentary Hypothesis (part 1)
- Ch 3: The Introduction of God's Mission (pp. 43-54)
 - OT: Genesis 4-5 (NIB pp. 13-16)

Week 4

- Jan 28 The Documentary Hypothesis (part 2)
- [Schmiedewind, *How the Bible Became a Book*](#) (pp. 1-23)
 - OT: Genesis 6-9 (NIB pp. 16-23)
- Jan 30 The Binding of Isaac
- Ch 4: The Calling and Creation of God's People (pp. 55-70)
 - OT: Genesis 12, 22 (NIB pp. 42-43)

Week 5

- Feb 4 The Song of the Sea
- Ch 4: The Calling and Creation of God's People (pp. 70-79)
 - OT: Exodus 3, 12, 15 (NIB pp. 89-90; 102-104; 108-109)
- Feb 6 Covenant
- Ch 5: The Formation of God's People (pp. 81-97)
 - OT: Exodus 19-20 (NIB pp. 113-117)

Week 6

- Feb 11 The Covenant Code & Holiness Code (8:30am section only)
- I am class will be going to the Annual H. Orton Wiley Lecture in Theology
Location: Crill Performance Hall**
- Ch 5: The Formation of God's People (pp. 97-109)
 - OT: Exodus 20:22-23:33; Leviticus 18-20 (NIB pp. 116-121; 172-176)

- Feb 13 The Covenant Code & Holiness Code (11am section only)
8:30am class will be going to the Annual H. Orton Wiley Lecture in Theology
Location: Crill Performance Hall
- Ch 5: The Formation of God's People (pp. 97-109)
 - OT: Exodus 20:22-23:33; Leviticus 18-20 (NIB pp. 116-121; 172-176)

Week 7

- Feb 18 The Shema/Priestly Blessing
- - OT: Numbers 6: 24-26; Deuteronomy 6 (NIB pp. 200; 254-255)

Wesleyan Lecture Write-up due-upload to Canvas by 11:59pm!

- Feb 20 The Deuteronomistic History
- Ch 6: In the Promised Land (pp. 111-123)
 - OT: Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 1 (NIB pp. 287-290; 306)

Part II: The Nevi'im (Prophets & Kings)

Week 8

- Feb 25 Midterm Review

- Feb 27 Midterm

Week 9

- Mar 4 Spring Break

- Mar 6 Spring Break

Week 10

- Mar 11 The Monarchy
- Ch 6: In the Promised Land (pp. 123-134)
 - Judges 19-21 (NIB pp. 377-382)

- Mar 13 King David
- - OT: 2 Samuel 6-7 (NIB pp. 449-452)

Week 11

- Mar 18 King Solomon
- - OT: 1 Kings 6-7; Psalm 89 (NIB pp. 491-494)

- Mar 20 The Divided Kingdoms
- OT: 2 Kings 3 (NIB pp. 528-530)
 - [Stager, “Jerusalem and the Garden of Eden”](#)

Week 12

- Mar 25 Hezekiah and the Assyrians
- [“Sennacherib’s Campaign against Judah”](#)
 - OT: 2 Kings 18-19 (NIB pp. 555-559)

“Women and Christianity: A History of Faith, Struggle and Valor”

Come support your colleagues at this big event during Women’s History Month.

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30pm in Crill Hall

With the leadership of Rebecca Laird, who received a RASP grant to create video resources for an upcoming Women in Christianity general education course, we are showcasing and filming the work of several of our own PLNU faculty! The evening will feature short presentations (in the style of brief TED Talks) on a variety of themes related to women throughout Christian history. The current list of faculty presenters includes: Linda Beail, Kelli McCoy, Stephanie Smith Matthews, Kara Lyons-Pardue, Sam Powell, Carol Blessing, Bettina Pedersen, Rebecca Laird, Jimi Valiente-Neighbours, and Michael Lodahl.

- Mar 27 Josiah’s Reforms
- - OT: 2 Kings 22-23 (NIB pp. 562-565)

Part III: The Khetuvim (The Writings)

Week 13

- Apr 1 The Exile
- Ch 7: Exile and Return (pp. 135-141)
 - OT: Lamentations 1-3 (NIB pp. 1144-1145)

- Apr 3 The Second Temple Period
- Ch 7: Exile and Return (pp. 142-149)
 - OT: Ezra 9-10 (NIB pp. 666-668)

Week 14

- Apr 8 Prophetic Literature
- Ch 8: The Voices of Israel’s Poets, Prophets, and Sages (pp. 151-163)
 - OT: Isaiah 44 (NIB pp. 1016-1018)

- Apr 10 Prophecy
- Ch 8: The Voices of Israel’s Poets, Prophets, and Sages (pp. 163-178)

- OT: Isaiah 49 (NIB pp.)

Week 15

- Apr 15 Wisdom Literature
- OT: Proverbs 1:20-33; 8:1-36; 9:1-6 (NIB pp. 898; 905-907)
- Apr 17 Dead Sea Scrolls/Apocrypha
- Ch 9: The End is the Beginning (pp. 179-194)
 - [Fitzgerald, "Archaeology, the Bible and Modern Faith"](#)

Reflection Assignment Due-upload to Canvas by 11:59pm!

Week 16

- Apr 22 **Easter Break-No Class!**
- Apr 24 Final Exam Review

Finals Wee

- Apr 29 **Evans Hall 114: Section 8 (11 am class) Final Exam (10:30am-1pm)**
- May 3 **Evans Hall: Section 5 (8:30 am class) Final Exam (7:30am-10am)**

Timeline of Old Testament History (1200 BCE-20 BCE) *Ancient Israel/Early Judaism*

1200	Beginning of Iron Age
1000	King David captures Jerusalem
960	Solomon builds First Temple
928	Division of the United Monarchy
745–612	Assyrian Period
722	Destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel
640	Beginning of the reign of King Josiah of Judah
597–539	Babylonian Period
597	First Babylonian deportation
586	Destruction of the First Temple by Babylonians
539–332	Persian Period
539	Edict of Cyrus
515	Rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem ("Second Temple")
458	Ezra the priest institutes reforms in Jerusalem
332–63	Hellenistic Period
332	Alexander the Great captures Jerusalem
167-164	Maccabean Revolt

164–63	Maccabean/Hasmonean Period
164	Rededication of the temple by Maccabees
63	Roman general Pompey captures Jerusalem
20 BCE	Herod beginning remodeling “Second Temple”

Early Christianity/Late Roman

4 BCE–30 CE	Life of Jesus of Nazareth
5–67 CE	Life of Paul the Apostle
66	Beginning of First Jewish Revolt
70	Destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem

Bibliography

Armstrong, Karen

1997 *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Coogan, Michael

2015 *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in its Context*. New York: Oxford University Press, 3rd edition.

Eliade, Mircea

1959 *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*. New York: Harper & Row.

Fitzgerald, John

2014 “Archaeology, the Bible and Modern Faith.” In *The Changing World Religion Map*, 1111-1122.

Freedman, David Noel et al., eds.

1992 *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 1st ed. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday.

Kelle, Brad

2017 *Telling The Old Testament Story*

Schniedewind, William

2004 *How the Bible Became a Book*. New York: Cambridge University Press.