

New Testament History and Religion BIB102 Section 6

Point Loma Nazarene University
Spring 2019
Tuesday and Thursday | 1:30-2:45pm
Professor Matt Wilson
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description and Purpose

This course is designed to open a conversation (that will hopefully last a lifetime) about the New Testament. The class provides an introduction to (1) the literature/content of the New Testament in its social, historical, literary, and theological contexts; and (2) the critical study of the New 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 (School of Theology and Christian Ministry)

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the New Testament.
- 2) Articulate the unity of the New 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 New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

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.

Course Texts

Books

1. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*(NRSV). Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
2. Hay, Richard. *Reading Backwards; Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014
3. Wright. N.T. *Paul; In Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005

Articles

4. Migliore, Daniel, *Faith Seeking Understanding*. (Violence and the Cross). Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing. 2004. pgs. 187-196
5. Giblin, Charles. *Recapitulation and the Literary Coherence of John's Apocalypse*. The Catholic Biblical Quarterly. Vol.56. 1994. 81-95

Course Requirements

Class Participation and Attendance: In this journey through the story of the NT, 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 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. 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.

Readings: The NT 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.

Quizzes: Five (5) ten point quizzes will be given throughout the semester. This quizzes will come at random in order to keep students accountable to the reading requirement.

Exams: There will be two exams (dates of the exams are listed in the Tentative Schedule). These exams will cover lectures and assigned reading and will consist of multiple choices and short answer questions. The second exam will not be cumulative and will only cover the material after the first exam.

Reading Response Paper: There will be two reading response papers written in response to *Reading Backwards* and *Paul*. The reading response papers should do

three things: (1) Briefly summarize key points from the reading, (2) critically reflect and evaluate the author's ideas and assertions, and (3) articulate what arguments and assertions were illuminating, or helpful, or provocative. Make clear and specific points while demonstrating engagement with the reading for best results. Each reading response should be 4 full pages, double spaced, Times New Roman or Helvetica, 12 pt. font.

Final Paper: Students will turn in a final paper on the last day of class before finals week. The final paper will take two NT passages (One Gospel passage and one epistle passage) and put them in conversation with one another over one particular issue. You may choose your topic of conversation from one of these topics: the nature of Jesus Christ, the importance of the resurrection, race and ethnicity, the shape and content of justice, or the function of the church in the world. If you would like to write your final paper on another topic, you must receive permission from the professor. Final papers should (1) unpack the content of your selected passages (2) interpret passages based on the literary and historical contexts and (3) argue a thesis based on the interpretation of the selected passages. Each final paper should be 8 full pages, double spaced, Times New Roman or Helvetica, 12pt font. Footnotes and a bibliography are required. It is recommended that you consult at least 3 academic commentaries for the research and writing of this final paper.

Course Policies

Grading: The student's grade will be based on a combination of class participation, reading, assignments, and exams as follows _____.

Possible Points:

Class Attendance and Participation: 50pts

Quizzes: 50pts

Exams: 200pts (100pts each)

Reading Response Paper: 200 (100pts)

Final Paper: 200pts

*Grading Scale: 94-100 A 90-93 A- 87-89 B+
84-86 B 80-83 B- 77-79 C+

74-76 C 70-73 C- 67-69 D+
64-66 D 60-63 D- 50s F

Attendance: In this journey through the story of the NT, 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 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. 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. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes, etc. from other students for any missed classes.

Laptops, iPads, etc.: The use of laptops and tablets is permitted with the understanding that it is a privilege to use such devices to take notes during class lectures and that all electronic activity should be related to class material. Please refrain from all other online activity in class.

Late Work Policy: In order not to be considered "late," all assignments must be submitted in person, in hard copy, in class on the day listed as the due date. NO assignment may be submitted electronically (by email, etc.) for full credit. If the student "forgets" an assignment, he or she may submit it after class (either electronically or in hard copy) for no more than half credit. Any assignment submitted electronically (whether late or on-time) will receive no more than half credit. No assignment will be accepted for credit of any kind more than one week after the original due date. *NOTE: Any extra-credit assignments must be turned in on or before the due date and will not be accepted late for any credit.*

Inclusivity: 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. This course will strive to practice sensitivity toward and foster respect for issues of inclusivity in matters of language and conduct. Each student should seek to enrich this inclusive atmosphere in both their class contributions and personal interactions.

Academic Honesty: 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.

Academic Accommodations: 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

1/11 – Introduction and NT Hermeneutics & Interpretation

Buy Required Textbooks

1/16 – NT Geography and Cultural/Religious Background

Required Reading: NISB – pg. 2274-2279

Maps 1, 14, 17, 18, 19

Wright Ch. 4

1/18- NT Composition and Introduction to the Gospels

Required Reading: Hays – Ch.1

Mark 1; Matt. 1-4; Luke 1-4; John 1-2

1/23 – The Gospel According to Mark

Required Reading: Mark 2-8

Hays – Ch. 2

1/25 – Mark (cont.)

Required Reading: Mark 9-16

1/30 – The Gospel According to Matthew

Required Reading: Matt. 5-19

Hays – Ch. 3

2/1 – Matthew (cont.)

Required Reading: Matt 20-28

2/6 – The Gospel According to Luke

Required Reading: Luke 5 -15

- Hays – Ch. 4
- 2/8 – Luke (cont.)
Required Reading: Luke 16-24
- 2/13 – The Gospel According to John
Required Reading: John 3-14
Hays – Ch. 5
- 2/15 – John (cont.)
Required Reading: John 14 -21
- 2/20 – The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ: Atonement Theory
Required Reading: Migliore Article
Hays – Ch. 6
- 2/22 – Acts of the Apostles
Required Reading: Acts 1-12
DUE: Reading Backwards Reading Response Paper
- 2/27 – Acts (cont.) and Midterm Review
Required Reading: Acts 13-28
- 3/1 – **Midterm Exam**
- 3/5 - 3/9 Spring Break**
- 3/13 – Introduction to Pauline Epistles & 1&2 Thessalonians
Required Reading: 1&2 Thessalonians
Wright Ch.1-2
- 3/15 – Galatians and Philippians
Required Reading: Galatians and Philippians
- 3/20 – 1 Corinthians
Required Reading: 1 Corinthians
Wright Ch. 3
- 3/22 – Romans
Required Reading: Romans 1-8
- 3/27 – Romans
Required Reading: Romans 9-16
Wright Ch. 5-6
- 3/29 – 4/2 - Easter Break**
- 4/3 – 2 Corinthians and Philemon
Required Reading: 2nd Corinthians and Philemon
- 4/5 – Ephesians and Colossians
Required Reading: Ephesians and Colossians

Wright Ch. 7

4/10 – Pastoral Epistles

Required Reading: 1&2 Timothy, Titus

Wright Ch. 8

4/12 – Catholic Epistles

Required Reading: Hebrews and James

DUE: Paul: A Fresh Perspective Reading Response

4/17 – Jude and the Petrine Epistles

Required Reading: Jude, 1st and 2nd Peter

4/19 – Johannine Epistles

Required Reading: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John

4/24 – Intro to Apocalyptic Literature and Revelation

Required Reading: Revelation 1-5

Giblin Article

4/26 – Revelation (cont.) and Final Exam review

Required Reading: Revelation 6-22

DUE: Final Paper

4/30-5/4 – Finals Week

DUE: Final Exam