



Fall 2017

Instructor: Prof. Wilson Ryland	Instructor e-mail: wryland1@pointloma.edu
Phone: 619-929-4530 Office hours: By appointment	Meeting location: RH 109
Meeting day/times: TR, 1:30-2:45	Final Exam: Tuesday December 12, 1:30-4:00pm

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Within the context of Christian origins, an overview of the canonical literature of the New Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.

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. While we will study things like historical contexts, narrative theology, genre, etc., the real aim of the course is to equip you to read the Bible prayerfully and faithfully, in service to Christ’s church.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify the historical context 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.
4. Articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of these books.

REQUIRED TEXTS

A standard translation of the Bible (e.g., ESV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, etc.) in book form. Please do not bring Bible paraphrases (e.g., The Message). Regarding bible phone/tablet apps, see the course technology policy below.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. ISBN 978-0801028687.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

In-Class Essays (2).....	200 points	100/each	(20%)
Reading Quizzes	300 points		(30%)
Midterm Exam	200 points		(20%)
Final Exam.....	300 points		(30%)
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TOTAL POINTS	1000 points		(100%)

Grading Scale:

89%-87%	= B+	79%-77%	= C+	69%-67%	= D+				
100%-93%	= A	86%-83%	= B	76%-73%	= C	66%-63%	= D	59%-0%	= F
92%-90%	= A-	82%-80%	= B-	72%-70%	= C-	62%-60%	= D-		

Notes on Grading Scale: PLNU requires a minimum of a C average to remain in academically good standing. A C grade therefore shows that you have achieved the minimal academic mastery in the assignment to remain a PLNU student making progress toward your degree. Anything below a C suggests that improvement is needed. If you fall below a C, contact me so we can work to increase your skills. Between a B and B- represents the “average” level of mastery for a PLNU student. Grades that ascend beyond a B into higher levels witness an standard deviation leap in the mastery and skills witnessed to in the assignment. Such a grading scale protects students from grade inflation, a phenomenon that hurts all students and the institution. At the same time, students compete only against levels of mastery and full accomplishment of the outcomes – not against each other. Although the occasion has never arisen, I have no philosophical objections to the whole class receiving As – if each person’s work achieved an A level of achievement of course outcomes.

Assignment Details:

READING QUIZZES Nearly every class session will begin with a quiz covering the events, characters, themes and ideas from the assigned reading. These provide encouragement and accountability for completing the assigned class reading, and give you an idea of what will be on the exams. These will also be how I track attendance.

IN-CLASS ESSAYS These will be open-Bible, and students may use handwritten notes. The prompt will draw from the readings and lectures. The purpose of this course requirement is to allow students to synthesize information from their reading and lectures, trying out methods of biblical interpretation modeled in class. By articulating answers to questions, a student will move beyond information repetition to analysis and comparison. Students will receive a list of general topics the week beforehand

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS The course exams will be **closed-book** .

The midterm will be held during regular class hours on October 17, covering introductory material, the Gospels, and Acts. Questions will cover lectures and reading materials.

The final will be comprehensive, held on December 12.

There will be a review before each exam.

Extra Credit: You may earn up to (and no more than) 100 extra points for:

1) Doing a 2 page summary of Powell’s chapter on Jesus (ch. 3). 50 points.

2) Doing a 2 page summary of Powell's chapter on Paul (ch. 11). 50 points.

3) Devotionally read 5 chapters from the Gospels and keep a Journal. 1 page per chapter for 50 points.

A cap of 100 extra points means a student may only do 2 of these assignments.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION LANGUAGE

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 has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

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 or minorities, I strongly urge you to avoid sexist and racist language in your public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in your writings.

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. If a student misses a class session for a school-approved reason (See Attendance below), s/he must notify the professor in advance and take the responsibility of initiating the make-up quiz. If a student misses a class session for a school-approved reason (See Attendance below), s/he must notify the professor in advance and take the responsibility of initiating the make-up quiz.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students are encouraged to use technology, especially the Canvas site, for learning and communication *outside* of class. In fact, students should be checking their email daily to receive timely course-related communication. *In class, however, the professor has banned the use of electronic devices*, except by permission or in the case of specific need. (Please speak to me if, for example, you require a laptop for learning purposes and we will work out an accommodation.) For the sake of optimal student learning, and knowing the distractions available with just one click, you may not use laptops, tablets, smartphones, or any other screen-device during class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, 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. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further 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.

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.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course schedule, topics, evaluation, and assignments may be changed at the instructor's discretion.

	Tuesday	Thursday
WEEK 01 Intro to NT		Aug. 31 Syllabus and Introductions
WEEK 02	Sept. 5 Reading: Mark 1; Matthew 1-4; Luke 1-4; John 1-2; Powell pp. 15 - 45	Sept. 7 Reading: Mark 1-8 Powell pp. 134-145
WEEK 03	Sept. 12 Reading: Mark 9-16	Sept. 14 Reading: Matthew 1-19 Powell pp. 113-123
WEEK 04	Sept. 19 Reading: Matthew 20-28	Sept. 21 Reading: Luke 1-15 Powell pp. 157-167
WEEK 05	Sept. 26 Reading: Luke 16-24	Sept. 28 Reading: John 1-14 Powell pp. 181-189
WEEK 06	Oct. 3 Reading: John 15-21	Oct. 5 Page 4 In Class Essay 1

WEEK 07	Oct. 10 Reading: Acts 1-12 Powell pp. 200-213	Oct. 12 Reading: Acts 13-28
WEEK 08	Oct. 17 MIDTERM	Oct. 19 Reading: Galatians and Ephesians Powell pp. 311-321, 334-341

WEEK 09	Oct. 24 Reading: Philippians & Colossians Powell pp. 349-355, 363-369	Oct. 26 Reading: 1 Corinthians Powell pp. 279-291
WEEK 10	Oct. 31 Reading: 2 Corinthians Powell pp. 298-305	Nov. 2 Reading: Romans Powell pp. 262-271
WEEK 11	Nov. 7 Reading: 1 & 2 Thessalonians Powell pp. 377-385, 391-395	Nov. 9 Reading: 1 & 2 Timothy Powell pp. 404-413
WEEK 12	Nov. 14 In Class Essay 2	Nov. 16 Reading: Hebrews Powell pp. 433-443
WEEK 13	Nov. 21 Reading: James, 1 & 2 Peter, Philemon	Nov. 23 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
WEEK 14	Nov. 28 Reading: 1, 2, 3 John Powell pp. 500-507	Nov. 30 Reading: Revelation 1-14 Powell pp. 534-537
WEEK 15	Dec. 5 Reading: Revelation 15-22	Dec. 7 Review

FINALS WEEK	<u>Final Exam Day/Time:</u> Tuesday, December 12, 1:30pm-4:00pm
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