



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

BIB-240: Reading Scripture Faithfully

Three (3) Units

Fall Semester 2017

Meeting days: M / W / F	Professor: Robert W. Smith, D.Min.
Meeting times: 8:30 – 9:25	Phone: x2594 [cell 858-539-6226]
Meeting location: Taylor 106	E-mail: rsmith@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Wed. December 13	Office: Sme Hall #211 [MTWRF – 1:00 – 3:00]

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

An exploration of the methods and approaches for engaging the Bible faithfully in relationship to Christian faith and practice; its nature, context, and origins; and its reception in global contexts, with attention to justice, gender, race, and class.

The course description above divides easily into three parts: (1) Scripture and Christian faith; (2) The nature, origin, and context of Scripture; and (3) The global contexts and that Scripture engages today toward just ends. Yet this division is misleading, for each cannot be separated from the next. These are intersecting paths, concentric circles, or, perhaps, layers of a cake each supporting the next. In all three layers of faithful reading, methods of exegesis ("leading out" the message of Scripture) aid us in reading texts faithfully.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to –

1. Describe the nature of Scripture in light of its origins and faithful witness to the Triune God;
2. Interpret biblical texts in harmony with historic Christian faith and worship;
3. Implement methods of traditional biblical interpretation; and

4. Develop faithful readings of Scripture in light of diverse contemporary contexts in service of God’s redemptive justice.

Required Texts

Crump, David. *Encountering Jesus, Encountering Scripture: Reading the Bible Critically in Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013.

[EJES]

Peterson, Eugene H. *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006. [ETB]

Wright, N. T. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2011. [SAG]

A standard translation of the Bible – e.g., ESV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, NKJV, etc.

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. 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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of men and women. 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.

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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Points for Assignments Distribution:	Grading Scale:												
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Galatians 4:1-7 250 pointsMid-term 200 pointsClass Participation 100 pointsWriting Assignments 200 pointsFinal Exam 250 points	<table><tbody><tr><td>A = 94 - 100</td><td>C = 73 - 76</td></tr><tr><td>A- = 90 - 93</td><td>C- = 70 - 72</td></tr><tr><td>B+ = 87 - 89</td><td>D+ = 67 - 69</td></tr><tr><td>B = 83 - 86</td><td>D = 63 - 66</td></tr><tr><td>B- = 80 - 82</td><td>D- = 60 - 62</td></tr><tr><td>C+ = 77 - 79</td><td>F = 0 - 59</td></tr></tbody></table>	A = 94 - 100	C = 73 - 76	A- = 90 - 93	C- = 70 - 72	B+ = 87 - 89	D+ = 67 - 69	B = 83 - 86	D = 63 - 66	B- = 80 - 82	D- = 60 - 62	C+ = 77 - 79	F = 0 - 59
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B = 83 - 86	D = 63 - 66												
B- = 80 - 82	D- = 60 - 62												
C+ = 77 - 79	F = 0 - 59												

COURSE PROCEDURE

Textbooks – the biblical text – reflection / solitude – writing – participation

These five (5) components that will make this class effective for the class as a whole and for the individual student. Further, it is the interaction of these five components that will enable one to read Scripture faithfully. Each class session will begin with a lecture (some brief; others considerably longer) followed by a time to integrate our work with the three textbooks, the biblical text, our reflections, and our writing. Each student will be encouraged to participate in the class discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE PRESENTED	CLASS CONTENT OR ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
Aug 29	Introduction to the class	
Aug 30	<i>Reading Scripture in "Solitude"</i>	<i>Galatians 4:1-7</i>
Sept 1	<i>Elements of Interpretation: A Postmodern Approach</i>	<i>Exodus 3:1-12</i> ETB x-xii; 1-11
Sept 4	Labor Day – No Class	
Sept 6	Scripture and Revelation	<i>1 Corinthians 12:1-3</i> SAG ix-xiv; 1-20
Sept 8	What Is Scripture? -- 1 Its Theological Context <i>Isaiah 6</i>	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i> ETB 15-36
Sept 11	What Is Scripture? -- 2 Its Literary Context <i>1 Samuel 3:1-21</i>	<i>Galatians 3:23-29</i> (<i>Gal. 4:1-7</i>)
Sept 13	What Is Scripture? -- 3 Its Historical Context <i>Isaiah 40:1-5</i>	<i>Luke 3:1-6</i> SAG 21-32
Sept 15	<i>Reading the Bible as Scripture – 1</i>	<i>Hebrews 8:1-12</i> ETB 37-58
Sept 18	<i>Reading the Bible as Scripture – 2</i>	<i>1 Samuel 8:1-22</i>
Sept 20	<i>Reading Scripture as a Coherent Story – 1</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 6:1-9;</i> <i>1 Corinthians 8:4-6</i> SAG 33-45
Sept 22	<i>Reading Scripture as a Coherent Story – 2</i>	<i>Matthew 4:12-16</i> ETB 59-77
Sept 25	<i>Reading Lenses: Seeing the Bible Again</i>	<i>Galatians 3:15-22</i> (<i>Gal. 3:23-4:7</i>)
Sept 27	Old Testament Canon	<i>Malachi 4:1-6</i>
Sept 29	New Testament Canon	<i>1 Peter 5:1-11</i> ETB 81-117
Oct 2	Canonical Issues	<i>Mark 12:28-34</i>
Oct 4	The Significance of a "Canon"	<i>Numbers 21:4-9;</i>

	<i>Did the Canon and Its Translators Misfire?</i>	<i>John 3:14-15</i>
Oct 6	<i>Authority – 1</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</i> ETB 121-136
Oct 9	<i>Matthew 5:17-20</i>	
Oct 11	<i>Authority – 2</i>	<i>Galatians 3:10-14</i> <i>(Gal. 3:15-4:7)</i> SAG 47-59
Oct 13	Exam 1	ETB 137-180
Oct 16	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i>	
Oct 18	<i>Authority – 3</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 5:11-21</i> SAG 61-81
Oct 20	Fall Break – No Class	
Oct 23	Scripture and Inspiration	<i>2 Timothy 3:16;</i>
Oct 25	Writing Day – No Class	
Oct 27	Writing Day – No Class	EJES 1-14
Oct 30	<i>First Thessalonians 2:13</i>	
Nov 1	The God of Revelation <i>The God Who Reveals Himself</i>	<i>Galatians 3:6-9</i> <i>(Gal. 3:10-4:7)</i> SAG 83-105
Nov 3	The Incarnation	<i>John 1:1-18; Galatians 4:1-7</i> EJES 15-45
Nov 6	<i>Exodus 19:1-6</i>	
Nov 8	Christ and the Scripture	SAG 107-14
Nov 10	The Living Word and the Written Word	<i>Galatians 4:8-20</i> <i>(Gal. 4:1-7)</i> EJES 47-70
Nov 13	<i>Jeremiah 7:1-15</i>	
Nov 15	The Theological Interpretation of Scripture – 1	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i> SAG 115-142
Nov 17	The Theological Interpretation of Scripture – 2	<i>Romans 1:16-17; 12:1-2</i> EJES 71-94
Nov 20	Exam 2	
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class	
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class	
Nov 27	<i>Philippians 2:1-11</i>	
Nov 29	<i>Revelation and Redemption</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7</i> SAG 143-173
Dec 1	<i>Revelation and the Bible</i>	<i>Mark 12:1-12</i> EJES 95-112
Dec 4	<i>Romans 6:1-14</i>	
Dec 6	The Gospel and the Scriptures	<i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i> SAG 175-195

Dec 8	<i>The Art of Reading Scripture in a Postmodern World</i>	<i>Galatians 3:6-4:20</i> EJES 113-134
Dec 13	Final Examination – 7:30 – 10:00 [Wednesday]	