

**Fall 2018**

<b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesday & Thursday	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Rev. Stephanie Matthews
<b>Meeting times:</b> 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Phone:</b> 619-849-2594
<b>Meeting location:</b> Smee Wesley Center	<b>E-mail:</b> smatthew@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> Thurs., Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Office location and hours:</b> Smee 211 T/R 2:45-4:00 (*or by appointment)

**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**

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. Interpret Scripture evidencing biblical literacy (PLO #1)
2. Describe the nature of Scripture in light of its origins and faithful witness to the Triune God;
3. Interpret biblical texts in harmony with historic Christian faith and worship;
4. Implement methods of traditional biblical interpretation; and
5. Develop faithful readings of Scripture in light of diverse contemporary contexts in service of God’s redemptive justice.

*PLO 1: “Interpret scripture evidencing biblical literacy” will be assessed in this class through the Contextual Bible Interpretation and final in-class discussion evaluation.*

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

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1. Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers* (Revised Edition; Baker, 2009); ISBN 0801046408
2. Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the Scriptures* (Beacon Hill, 2012); ISBN 0834128845
3. Justo L. Gonzalez, *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes* (Abingdon, 1996); ISBN 0687014522

## RECOMMENDED STUDY BIBLES

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1. *The People's Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Eds.: Deyoung, Gafney, *et al* (Fortress, 2008); ISBN 0806656255
  - a. Select this Bible if you're interested in encountering a diversity of cultural perspectives and contributions from many persons of color. The approach is generally protestant and academic. Some of its datings and historical decisions are not explained in detail, but are within the scholarly mainstream.
2. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Ed.: Harrelson (Abingdon, 2003); ISBN 0687278325
  - a. Select this Bible if your primary interest is the theological and literary aspects of the texts. The book introductions will also include historical information, but its primary goal is elaborating the significant messages for the church.
3. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV w/Apocrypha), Eds.: Coogan, Brettler, *et al* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.; Oxford University Press, 2010); ISBN 0195289609
  - a. Select this Bible for a greater focus on the historical-critical aspects of the text. Introductions to books often include a variety of scholarly perspectives on items of debate (authorship, dating, integrity).

## INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

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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

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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.

## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

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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.

## DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

Discrimination or harassment related to race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity or orientation, religious choice, or any other type of behavior that dehumanizes human beings or dismisses difference, is not conducive to a good learning environment and is harmful to human vitality and healthy community. These behaviors will not be tolerated. I encourage all students to be open to any honest, respectful, and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

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## PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

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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.

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## PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

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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.

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## PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

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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](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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## PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

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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.

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## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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<u>Sample</u> assignment distribution by percentage:	Grade scale:												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance &amp; Participation 15%</li><li>• Reading check-ins 15%</li><li>• Essay 1 - Textual analysis 10%</li><li>• Essay 2 – Summary of scholarship 10%</li><li>• Essay 3 - Contextual analysis 10%</li><li>• Contextual bible interpretation 20%</li><li>• Final Exam 20%</li></ul>	<table><tr><td>A=93-100</td><td>C=73-76</td></tr><tr><td>A-=92-90</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></table>	A=93-100	C=73-76	A-=92-90	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
A=93-100	C=73-76												
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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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**Attendance & Participation (15%):** See the PLNU attendance policy above. Excused absences require a note or other documentation from a health professional or professor/coach (for sickness or official PLNU scheduled event). Notes from the PLNU Wellness Center are accepted, and if you are sick enough to miss class, you are strongly encouraged to go there.

Class participation means simply participating verbally in question/answer and discussion during the class period, engaging in assigned tasks, maintaining focus, and avoiding distraction. Participation encompasses being prepared to discuss assigned reading, sharing insights, responding to other students, asking relevant questions, attempting to answer relevant questions, and discussing the issues brought up in class.

**Reading check-ups (15%):** 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. Reading check-ups could come in the form of quizzes (online or in-class), or a worksheet to be completed and brought to class discussion.

**Contextual Bible interpretation (20%):** Contextual biblical interpretation is a method of determining how to apply a biblical passage to a specific life setting in a way that is compassionate, specific, and relevant. Each of you will select a passage of Scripture, in consultation with the professor. The final contextual Bible interpretation will involve a written synthesis (10-12 page paper) of three previous assignments:

**Essay one - Textual analysis (10%):** 2 page literary analysis of your chosen text. You will identify elements such as genre of the passage, characterization, tone, and literary context.

**Essay two - Summary of scholarship (10%):** 4 page summary paper of existing scholarly and ecclesial interpretations of your chosen text. AT LEAST one interpreter must provide commentary on the original audience(s) of the passage. You are strongly encouraged to consult the library staff for help identifying and incorporating the necessary resources for this essay.

**Essay three - Contextual analysis (10%):** 3 page contextual analysis. You will articulate BOTH your own context (from a self-inventory which will be provided) AND the context of the audience (real or imagined) of your final interpretation

You will be provided guidelines and a rubric for each essay at a later date. APA, Chicago, or MLA formatting is acceptable, but be consistent. Consult the appropriate library guide at <http://libguides.pointloma.edu/CitationHelp>. (GELO 1a)

**Final Exam (20%):** This comprehensive in-class exam will cover lectures, class discussions, and assigned reading. It will consist of matching, short answer questions, and one essay.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Reading Assignments	Assessment
0	Thurs, Aug 30	Introductions to the course & one another	
1	Tue, Sept 4	S. Powell, <i>Teacher's Guide to ... Scriptures</i> , pp. 5-31	
	Thurs, Sept 6	S. Powell, <i>Teacher's Guide to ... Scriptures</i> , pp. 32-70	
2	Tue, Sept 11	M. Gorman, Ch. 1 "The Task" ( <i>Elements</i> , pp. 9-33)	Reading check-in (quiz)
	Thurs, Sept 13	M. Gorman, Chs. 2 "The Text" and 3 "Survey" ( <i>Elements</i> , only 35-46, 64-68; skim rest)	
3	Tue, Sept 18	M. Gorman, Chs. 4 "Contextual Analysis" ( <i>Elements</i> , pp. 64-81)	
	Thurs, Sept 20	M. Gorman, Chs. 5 "Formal Analysis" and 6 "Detailed Analysis of the Text" ( <i>Elements</i> , pp. 83-125)	Reading check-in (worksheet)
4	Tue, Sept 25	J. Gonzalez, "Preface" and "Intro: Authority and Perspective" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 7-30)	
	Thurs, Sept 27	James Earl Massey, "Reading the Bible from Particular Social Locations" ( <i>NIDB</i> vol. 1, pp. 150-153)	Essay 1 – Textual Analysis
5	Tue, Oct 2	J. Gonzalez, Ch. 1 "Marginality" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 31-55)	
	Thurs, Oct 4	M. Gorman, Ch. 8 "Theological Interpretation" and Ch. 9 "Expansion and Refinement" ( <i>Elements</i> , pp. 139-172)	
6	Tue, Oct 9	J. Gonzalez, Ch. 2 "Poverty" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 57-75)	Reading Check-in (worksheet)
	Thurs, Oct 11	Lee Martin McDonald, "Canon of the Old Testament" ( <i>NIDB</i> vol. 1, pp. 536-547)	
7	Tue, Oct 16	J. Gonzalez, Ch. 3 "Mestizaje and Mulatez" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 77-90)	
	Thurs, Oct 18	M. Gorman, Ch. 7 "Synthesis" ( <i>Elements</i> , pp. 127-138)	Essay 2 – Summary of Scholarship

8	Tue, Oct 23	J. Gonzalez, Ch. 4 "Exiles and Aliens" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 91-113)	
	Thurs, Oct 25	Julio Trebolle, "Canon of the Old Testament" ( <i>NIDB</i> vol. 1: 548-563)	
9	Tue, Oct 30	J. Gonzalez, Ch.5 "Solidarity" and "Conclusion" ( <i>Santa Biblia</i> , pp. 91-117)	
	Thurs, Nov 1	M. Gorman, "Protestant Interpretation" ( <i>Ecumenical</i> , pp. 177-193) David Buttrick, "Use of Bible in Preaching" ( <i>NIB</i> :1, pp. 188-199)	
10	Tue, Nov 6	Sandra Schneiders, "Inspiration and Revelation" ( <i>NIDB</i> vol. 3, 57-63)	<b>Essay 3 – Contextual Analysis</b>
	Tue, Nov 8	Nancy Bowen, "Feminist Interpretation" ( <i>NIDB</i> :2, pp.448-9) Phyllis Trible, Introduction and Ch. 1 "Hagar" ( <i>Texts of Terror</i> , pp. 1-35)	
11	Tue, Nov 13	Donahue, "Bible and Justice" ( <i>Ecumenical</i> , Gorman ed.; pp. 239-251)	
	Thurs, Nov 15	Class Discussion (On reading/lectures from weeks 7-11)	
	Nov 20 & 22	<u>Tue:</u> <b>NO CLASS – Society of Biblical Literature Meeting</b> <u>Thurs:</u> <b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS</b>	
12	Tue, Nov 27	<u>Presentations in class</u> <i>Focal Texts to be determined in conversation with presenters</i>	<b>Contextual Bible Interpretation (synthesis)</b>
	Thurs, Nov 29	<u>Presentations in class</u> <i>Focal Texts to be determined in conversation with presenters</i>	
13	Tue, Dec 4	D. Juel, Two Sermons ( <i>Scriptural Imagination</i> , pp. 161-164, 173-176) R. Hays, Sermon: Who is the God ... ( <i>Art of Reading</i> , pp. 306-310)	
	Thurs, Dec 6	Class Discussion: Wrap-Up (All class content considered, but esp. readings and in-class material from weeks 9-13)	
		<b>FINAL EXAM:</b> Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	

