



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Bib307 Biblical Theology

Spring 2013

Table with 2 columns: Meeting details (day, times, location, exam) and Instructor/Contact info (name, phone, email, office hours, additional info).

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the major theological themes of the Christian Scriptures in relation to Christian faith and practice.

Stanley Hauerwas writes, 'The essential Christian witness is neither to personal experience, nor to what Christianity means to 'me,' but to the truth that this world is the creation of a good God who is known through the people of Israel and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ' (The Peaceable Kingdom, p. 15).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of the class, the student will be able

- (1) To articulate the Holy Scripture as the unfolding narrative of God and God's creation, to learn the significant turning point in this narrative, and to understand the subsequent theological implications for the formation of human character and congregations.
- (2) To explain how narrative functions as a precondition for human rationality in its relationship to its shaping human polities and character.
- (3) To express the major narrative that shapes the lives, secular and Christian, in contemporary America as it forms human character and polities.
- (4) To apply class materials to develop the ecclesial and personal implications of the alternative narratives for the life of the church and individual human beings.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

A Bible (any contemporary translation and/or original languages)

Stanley Hauerwas, Unleashing the Scriptures: Freeing the Bible from Captivity to America. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

George Barna, The Habits of Highly Effective Churches. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1999.

Douglas Harink, Paul among the Postliberals: Pauline Theology beyond Christendom and Modernity. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

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.

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 Eclass.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated 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. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. 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." See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

Cheating defeats the whole good end of our classroom work and demeans the professor, the student, and one's fellow students. In an academic context, it constitutes a mortal sin. If the above policy is not sufficient to deter dishonesty, here is what I have thought of doing, although legal and moral restraints prohibit implementation: Any student caught cheating will be sent to Rev. Dr. Mary Paul for a Confession of Sins; if repentance and acts of repentance are not forthcoming, upon approval by Kerry Fulcher, Provost, Rev. Dr. Paul will administer Last Rites to the student if he/she so desires. Barring a letter of pardon from President Bob Brower, the student will face a lethal injection simultaneously injected by your classmates; upon execution, the student's body will be chopped into bite size bits and fed to the dolphins at Sea World by class members. The professor will pack your remaining goods and send them home to any surviving family members with a letter of explanation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE STATEMENT

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 department urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, 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.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Point Loma Nazarene University encourages the use of technology for learning, communication, and collaboration. I will post all class material on eclass for reference for students throughout the class. I will make some modules of the class available to students only through eclass. The student is responsible to have access and participate in class, not only in our meetings, but through assigned on line exercises.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Clearly define a grading policy to avoid any confusion on expectations. Providing the grading scale in a table format is often most helpful.

	POINTS	Date and Time Due	GRADE
4-5 pp. summary essay on Hauerwas that integrates the essay section with the sermonic exhibits	150 possible points	January 22 by 11:00 am	
4-5 page essay on prompt on the narrative structure of <u>Nightmare Before Christmas</u> in relationship to the narrative presupposed by George Barna	150 possible points	January 31 by 11:00 am	

4-5 page essay that argues how Gen 1-11 and the Book of Revelation comprise a narrative at both its deep and surface structure	150 possible points	March 12 by 11:00 am.	
A 3-4 page essay on the first three chapters of Harink	150 possible points	April 23 by 11:00 am 6:00	
Comprehensive Final Exam	400 possible points	Wednesday, May 1 6:30 – 8:30 pm	

Grading Scale:

1000 - 930 = A 899-870 = B+ 799-770 = C+ 699 - 600 = D 599 and below
929-900 = A- 869- 830 = B 769-730 = C
829-800 = B- 729-700 = C-

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. I encourage you to contact me if you receive an assessment below a C so that we might work together for the increase in 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.

Students do not compete against the professor, either, for the “scarce commodity” of good grades. A good professor requires good students. It is my job to make you good students, even as it is your job to make me a good professor. Our goods are not in competition, but together participate in the same good which we find together in the achievement of the outcomes of the class.