

Spring 2019

Meeting days: Tues/Thurs	Instructor title and name: Prof. Stephanie Matthews
Meeting times: 1:00-2:15 pm	Phone: 619-849-2950
Meeting location: Smee Wesley	E-mail: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Thurs, May 2 1:30-4:00pm	Office location and hours: Smee 211. T/R 2:45-4:30pm or by appointment (email request)

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 exegetical and theological study of Old Testament narrative and legal materials (Pentateuch) that introduces their basic content, movement, context, and significance. Attention also is paid to biblical and archaeological data related to the origins of Israel and its literature.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the character of God and the nature of the relationship between God and God's people as presented in the Torah.
2. Lead communal prayer with the use of Scripture passages from the Torah.
3. Research key topics in biblical passages with use of a scholarly compendium.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Johanna W. H. van Wijk-Bos, *Making Wise the Simple: The Torah in Christian Faith and Practice*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. ISBN: 9780802809902
2. T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, eds., *Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002. ISBN: 9780830817818

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Reading and class participation. Please consult the school policy on attendance. Your active participation in this upper division course is expected in order to provide the highest quality learning environment for all. You may be assessed via discussion participation (speaking, listening, and responding to your classmates) and pop quizzes over the required reading.

Wiley Lecture précis. Attend at least one of the Wiley lecture series events (Feb. 11-13) and write a half-page précis. Instructions will be provided. **Due Feb. 19.**

Parashat readings (2). In order to develop the skill of leading communal prayer with the use of Scripture passages from the Torah, each of you will practice leading the class in prayer twice over the course of the semester (once before Feb 20 and once after). Available dates are listed on the calendar. You may select a short number of verses from the assigned Parashat readings for the day, which you will read aloud. Your reading will reflect careful practice of intonation, pronunciation, volume control, and tempo. Then, you will guide the class in a short meditation over the passage (5-7 minutes). Afterward, the class will provide feedback in a collegial and supportive manner.

DOTP essay. Each student will choose one of the passages from their assigned Parashat readings to research further. The primary scholarly source for this 4-5 page essay (with appropriate introduction, thesis statement, conclusion, and proper citations where necessary) will be the required textbook, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Consult the index for references to your (3-5) chapters and review the related essays. Determine the most significant topics for a better understanding of your passage, and compose an essay interpreting your passage in light of what you have learned. *Papers with improper citations will be returned for correction.* **Due Mar. 20.**

Final Exam. There will be a final in-class exam for this course. You will be evaluated over your knowledge of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in light of the course readings and discussion as well as your preparation for and discussion of the weekly Parashat readings. You may be asked to identify biblical passages, and address key interpretive issues in short answer or essay format. A study guide will follow.

Assignment distribution by percentage:	Grade scale:	
• Reading/participation 15%	A=94-100	C=74-76
• Wiley series précis 5%	A-=90-93	C-=70-73
• Parashat readings (2) 15% ea.	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
• DOTP essay 25%	B=84-86	D=64-66
• Final exam 25%	B-=80-83	D-=60-63
	C+=77-79	F=0-59

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	UNIT	Required Reading (van Wijk-Bos)	(Double) PARASHAT	Jewish Holiday Discussed
Jan 10	Introduction to Torah Studies			
Jan 15		The Torah in Judaism and Christianity 1-15	Gen. 1.1-6.8 Gen. 6.9-11.32	Simchat Torah "Rejoicing with the Torah" (Gen. 1.1-2.3)
Jan 17	Genesis 1-11	The World of the Tale Part I 33-48	Gen. 12-17 Gen. 18-22	Rosh Hashanah* "New Year" (Gen. 21.1-34)
Jan 22		The Making & Marring of the World A God who regrets 79-84, 231-242	Gen. 23.1-25.18 Gen. 25.19-28.9	Parashat reader:
Jan 24		The World of the Tale Part II 48-57	Gen. 28.10-32.3 Gen. 32.4-36.43	Parashat reader:
Jan 29		World's Mending: sacrifice, prayer, Sabbath 84-95	Gen. 37-40 Gen. 41.1-44.17	Parashat reader:
Jan 31		Genealogy framework 95-108	Gen. 44.18-47.27 Gen. 47.28-50.26	Parashat reader:
Feb 5		The Tale in Historical Context 58-70	Exod. 1.1-6.1 Exod. 6.2-9.35	Parashat reader:
Feb 7	Genesis 2-3	A Tale of a Garden Part I 109-115	Exod.10.1-13.16 Exod. 13.17-17.16	Parashat reader:
Feb 12		A Tale of a Garden Part II 115-127	Exod. 18-20 Exod. 21-24	Shavuot "Weeks" (Ex. 19-20)

Feb 14		Paul and the Torah 275-295	Exod. 25.1-27.19 Exod. 27.20-30.10	Parashat reader:
Feb 19		*Wiley series précis due* A God who Accompanies 246-251	Exod. 30.11-34.35 Exod. 35-40	Parashat reader:
Feb 21	Genesis 12-50	A Way into Torah: The "Stranger in Your Gates" 25-34	Lev. 1-5 Lev. 6-8	Parashat reader:
Feb 26		Wandering Arameans My Ancestors Part I 129-142	Lev. 9-11 Lev. 12-15	Parashat reader: Brandon
Feb 28		Wandering Arameans My Ancestors Part II A God who Appears 142-148, 242-246	Lev. 16-20 Lev. 21-24	Yom Kippur "Day of Atonement" (Lev. 16)
<i>Spring Break</i>				
Mar 14	Exodus 1-24	The Exodus in History 149-154	Lev. 25-27 Num. 1.1-4.20	Parashat reader: Chad
Mar 19		The Bible and Torah 15-24 *DOTP essay due tomorrow*	Num. 4.21-7.89 Num. 8-12	Chanukah* "Festival of Lights" (Num. 7.1-8.4)
Mar 21		Covenant 154-168	Num. 13-15 Num. 16-18	Purim "Lots" <i>observed</i> <i>Mar. 21, 2019</i>
Mar 26	Num. 11 & Dt. 34	"And Brought Us to This Place" 169-178	Num. 19.1-25.9 Num. 25.10-30.1	Sukkot "Tabernacles" (Num. 29.12-16)
Mar 28	Exod. 20-23 & Lev. 19	Exodus 20-23 179-191	Num. 30.2-26.13 Deut. 1.1-3.22	Parashat reader:
Apr 2		Holiness Code A God who is Prejudiced 192-202; 251-253	Deut. 3.23-7.11 Deut. 7.12-11.25	Tish'a B'av "9 th day of Av" (Deut. 4.25-40)

Apr 4	Exodus 25-40 & Leviticus	Jesus and the Torah 263-275	Deut. 11.26-16.17 Deut. 16.18-21.9	Parashat reader:
Apr 9		Tabernacle and Sacrifice 203-217	Deut. 21.10-25.19 Deut. 26.1-29.8	Parashat reader:
Apr 11		A God who is Passionate 253-262	Deut. 29.9-31.30	Parashat reader:
Apr 16		Purity Laws 218-230	Deut. 32	Parashat reader:
Apr 23	Concluding Torah Studies	How then shall we live, and how do we read? 296-305	Deut. 33-34	Simchat Torah "Rejoicing in the Torah" (Deut. 33-34)
Apr 25				Pesach* "Passover" <i>observed</i> <i>Apr. 20-27, 2019</i>
Final Exam: Thurs, May 2 1:30-4:00pm				

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. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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.

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) 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.

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, 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.