

BIB102-6 SP15 - New Testament History & Religion

Jump to Today

School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Bib102.6 New Testament History and Religion

Meeting day: Th and online	Instructor: John W. Wright
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45	Phone: 849-2254
Meeting location: PLNU Liberty Station Room 207	E-mail: jwright@pointloma.edu
Additional info: You should contact me via email. I will check email twice a day during week; once around noon, once in the evening; once daily on weekends, if possible	Office hours: For appointments, contact me directly through email. We will arrange a time to meet at the nearest, most convenient time for both of us.
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 7, 1:30 – 4:00 pm	Additional info: I win as a professor when you win : students. Our goods are tied together in our different roles.

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

Catalogue descriptions cannot begin to address the intellectual challenge and thrill of working through this material. It stands at the beginning of the General Education curriculum to provide a standard for the rest

of your work at PLNU and through your life. To accompany you through the material and to learn from you represents a high honor that PLNU gives me.

The class will examine Jesus of Nazareth, early Jesus Messianists, and the apostolic era church and the writing and collection of what became the New Testament. We will look at this history and literature in the context of early Judaism amid the Greco-Roman world. The class will have five movements. We will analyze how the contemporary social assemblage of the United States makes Jesus a "personal Jesus" for individual therapeutic support. The second movement will review the history of the earliest Jesus movement as it moved from Roman occupied Palestine into the Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. The third section will provide a cross sectional look at different groups that emerged within early Christianity. The fourth section will investigate the contents of the gospels, Pauline, and catholic letters -- the contents and themes of what became the New Testament. The fifth section will examine how the NT forms a the church gathered around Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from the dead. In this gospel we may find the faithfulness of God which continues in the life of the church in opposition to movements that appealed to Jesus to make him a "personal" figure. As we look at the historical contexts and social histories, our primary attention will always look to the event of Jesus and the life of the church as the revelation of God for our lives as human beings in the world today.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes for PLNU General Education Program:

At the completion of this class the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the New Testament;
- 2) Articulate the unity of the Old Testament and 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; and
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

Course Objectives for NCS:

- (1) To learn important people and events in early Christianity and early Judaism and within the New Testament story and to understand how early Christian history and the New Testament literature relate.
- (2) To learn a basic framework of the history of early Christian communities.
- (3) To learn the basic compositional history and themes of the New Testament literature in order to understand the character of the people of God that the Scripture calls forth.
- (4) To investigate the nature of the New Testament as Christian Scriptures and the nature of their claim upon the life of the Church and individual Christians in today's world.

REQUIRED EBOOKS (The Course Requires EBOOK Format)

A Bible (see biblegateway.com for online version)

Luigi Giussani, At the Origin of the Christian Claim. Toronto: McGill Queens University Press, 1997.

Luigi Giussani, Why the Church? Toronto: McGill Queens University Press, 2001.

Michael Dauphinais and Matthew Levering, Holy People, Holy Land: A Theological Introduction to the Bible. Brazos Press, 2005. Pp. 137-256.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

PLNU considers regular and punctual attendance at all classes essential to optimum academic achievement, both online and face-to-face. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings and online course material, I have the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, I may de-enroll you 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 HONESTY

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 the full policy in the undergraduate catalog at Academic Honesty.

The above represents the official policy of the class. I wonder, however, if student behavior would change if I could invoke the following policy (which I won't, but I wonder if students would "get it" if I could): Cheating defeats the whole good end of our classroom work (i.e. learning, increasing the power of the executive functions of your brain, and your ability to order the goods of your whole life in light of the Good that is God). It demeans the professor, the student, and one's fellow students. In an academic context, it constitutes a mortal sin. In this non-existent policy, 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 of truth serum simultaneously injected by your classmates; the student's body then 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. You must submit the final exam online during the required time, with ID # only.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Point Loma Nazarene University encourages the use of technology for learning, communication, and collaboration. I will teach the class utilizing technology to implement a hybrid face-to-face and online format. I expect complete attendance for the classroom meetings in person and online; if an emergency arises that you cannot come to a face-to-face meeting, please email me before the class. You should complete carefully all online lectures as they are due. I require small group meetings with the professor as spelled out in the syllabus; you cannot make them up -- it is full credit or nothing. You will abide by PLNU Netiquette policy for all online interactions. The class requires that you open a Live Text account. You will submit the book summary on Holy People, Holy Land and the final exam to Live Text and Canvas.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

--	--	--

3-4 pp. Summary of At the Origin of the Christian Claim	100 Points	Feb 3 11:00 pm
3-4 pp. Essay on Jesus and the Restoration of Israel	100 Points	Feb 10 11:00 pm
3-4 pp. response to Essay on Jesus in the Epistle to James and the Gospel of Thomas	100 Points	Feb 19 11:00 pm
3-4 pp. summary of <u>Why the Church?</u>	100 possible points	March 20 5:00 pm
Gospel Test	100 possible points	March 31, 5:00 pm
Essay # 2: 3-4 page detailed explanation of a passage from Pauline letter	100 possible points	April 21 by 5:00 pm.
3-4 page summary of assigned reading of Holy People, Holy Land	100 possible points	May 1 by 5:00 pm. Submit on Canvas.
Comprehensive Final Exam: 150 minute "in class" response to prompt given by Professor	300 possible points	Thursday May 7, 1:30 -4:00 pm. Submit online with ID number only

Grading Scale:

1000 - 930 = A 899-870 = B+ 799-770 = C+ 699 - 600 = D 929-900 = A- 869- 830 = B
769-730 = C Below 600: F 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 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. I expect you to show the practices of good students: reading whole assignments, turning in work on time and proof read, and engaging the course material actively and fully.

Date	Details
Thu Jan 15, 2015	Course Introduction and Professorial Expectations 1:30pm
Tue Jan 20, 2015	Online: Personal Jesus and Moralistic Therapeutic Relational Theism (Online) 11pm
Thu Jan 22, 2015	Face-to-Face: Processing Module 1 1:30pm
Tue Jan 27, 2015	Online: Beginnings: Judaism and the Earliest Jesus Messianism 1:30pm
Thu Jan 29, 2015	Face-to-Face: Jesus's Teachings and his Resurrectoin 1:30pm
Tue Feb 3, 2015	Book Summary 1 11pm Online: The Church as the Gathering of Jesus Messianic Loyalists: From Jews to the Incorporation of Non-Jews (online) 11pm
Thu Feb 5, 2015	Face-to-Face: Gentile Assemblages of Jesus Messianic Loyalists 1:30pm
Tue Feb 10, 2015	Essay on Jesus and the Messianic Restoration of Israel 11pm Online: Thomas Jesus Devotees and Signs and Wonders Jesus Devotees 11pm
Thu Feb 12, 2015	Face-to-Face: Jesus as Representative of the Divine 1:30pm

Date	Details	
Tue Feb 17, 2015	Online: The Gospel, the Gospels, and the Composition of the Gospels	11pm
Thu Feb 19, 2015	Face-to-Face: The Composition of the Gospels Essay on The Significance of Jesus in the Epistle of James and the Gospel of Thomas	1:30pm 11pm
Tue Feb 24, 2015	Online: The Gospel according to Mark	11pm
Thu Feb 26, 2015	Face-to-Face: The Gospel of Mark	1:30pm
Tue Mar 3, 2015	Online: The Gospel according to Matthew	11pm
Thu Mar 5, 2015	Face-to-Face: The Gospel of Matthew	1:30pm
Tue Mar 17, 2015	Online: The Gospel of Luke	11pm
Thu Mar 19, 2015	Face-to-Face: The Gospel of Luke	1:30pm
Fri Mar 20, 2015	Book Summary 2	5pm
Tue Mar 24, 2015	Online: The Gospel according to John	11pm
Thu Mar 26, 2015	Face-to-Face: The Gospel of John and the Gospel	1:30pm
Tue Apr 7, 2015	Online: Reading Paul: The Underlying Structure of Paul's Thought	11pm
Wed Apr 8, 2015	Gospel Test	11:59pm
Thu Apr 9, 2015	Face-to-Face: Understanding Paul	1:30pm
Tue Apr 14, 2015	Online: Reading Galatians	11pm
Thu Apr 16, 2015	Face-to-Face: From Galatians to Romans	1:30pm
Tue Apr 21, 2015	3-4 page Explanation of a Passage from Paul The "Catholica Epistles": Hebrews and 1 Peter	11pm 11pm
Thu Apr 23, 2015	Face-to-Face: Sustaining the Church amid hostility	1:30pm
Tue Apr 28, 2015	Online: The Johanne Letters	11pm
Thu Apr 30, 2015	Face-to-Face: Course Synthesis	11:59pm
Fri May 1, 2015	Book Summary 3	5pm

Date	Details
------	---------

Thu May 7, 2015	Final Exam
-----------------	------------

4pm
