

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY  
BIB 102 New Testament History and Religion  
Fall 2018

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Office hours: MW 10:30-12:00 and TTh 1:30-2:30. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Responding to the Sacred." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will Identify the historical context of the New Testament; articulate the unity of the New Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon; 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 articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

**REQUIRED READING:**

- The New Testament in a modern translation. Preferred versions include the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.
- Carter, Warren. *The Roman Empire and the New Testament*.
- Gench, Frances Taylor. *Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts*.
- Other reading as assigned.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Punctual attendance. You may miss up to three sessions without penalty. Every absence after the third will result in a deduction of 1/2% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 6 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Five responses to assigned articles or biblical readings. Each response should be around 600 words and should briefly 1) summarize the most important ideas of these articles and 2) describe the points that you found to be either most interesting or puzzling. **Note: We will not discuss these readings in class; however, a portion of the exams will cover the content of the readings.**

3. Essay: Write a 3 page (double spaced) essay (approximately 1100 words) in which you describe how your view of scripture has changed during this course. In particular:

- In what sense, if any, do you think of the Bible as the word of God?
- Why should we read the Bible? In what way(s) is the Bible an authority and a resource for Christians today? In what way(s) is the Bible not an authority and a resource for Christians today?
- After your studies this semester, are you more or less inclined to read the Bible? Explain why.

Additionally:

- Your response should make specific reference to ideas and points of analysis that have been discussed in the readings and lectures.

- The essay is due November 15 at class time.
- Submit this essay via Canvas.
- Evaluation: This is the sort of writing assignment in which there is no wrong answer. Accordingly, your grade will depend on 1) the extent to which you fully address the assigned topic; 2) the clarity and logic of your analysis; and 3) spelling, grammar, and organization of ideas.

4. Occasional in-class writing assignments.

5. Exams: There will be a midterm exam on October 18 and a final exam on December 11. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Essay	80 points
Final exam	120
Mid-term exam	75
Five responses to articles/scripture	50 (10 points each)
In-class writing	25

PLNU POLICIES

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

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- Computers and other electronic devices may not be used in class.
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- 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 department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.