

Bib 101: Old Testament History and Religion (2 units)

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Fall 2018

Pt. Loma Nazarene University

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Tu/Th 10-10:55 am RLC 103

Tu/Th 11-11:55 am RLC 101

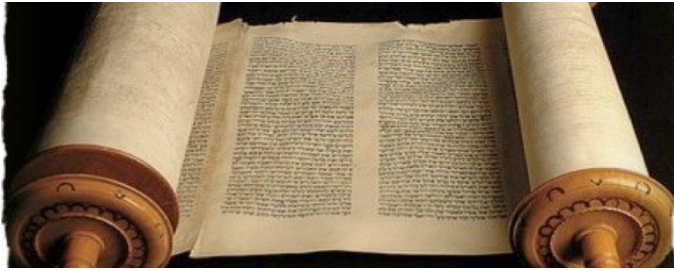
Student Hours Location: Wesleyan Center Conference Room

Student Hours: Tu/Th 12:00-1:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Bib 101 will survey the historical, literary, and cultural context of the Old Testament Scriptures. The rich literary and prophetic traditions associated with this collection of books serves as a precursor to the Christian texts. Therefore, recognizing key themes and the basic layout of the Old Testament, will enhance both learning and devotion.

There is not enough time in one semester to grasp the entirety of this incredible literature, but we will engage deeply with specific texts. Some of the questions we will ponder: What is sacred space? How is the divine depicted in the Scriptures? What are some of the recognized theories of the canonization



process? How does God's relationship with ancient Israel evolve throughout the texts? What is monotheism? Why is "land" a central theme in the meta-narrative? What clues are given in the Torah for the establishment of the monarchy at Jerusalem? How did Jewish sectarianism in the Second Temple period pave the way for the birth of the Jesus Movement?

My hope is that this course will not only strengthen your oral communication and critical thinking skills, but will also fortify your personal faith journey.

REQUIRED READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

- [Michael D. Coogan, *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in its Context* \(New York: Oxford University Press, 3rd edition, 2015\).](#)
- [New Interpreter's Study Bible- \(NRSV version\)](#)
- Readings linked into the syllabus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. have a basic grasp of the contents of the Old Testament Scriptures, history, and geography
2. can use interpretive approaches that explore both the literary features of the Old Testament and the historical and cultural contexts in which it came into being
3. can relate the Old Testament as Scripture to Christian theology, mission, and discipleship
4. have used this knowledge and these abilities to interpret some key Old Testament texts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Course attendance and participation (20%-[All GELOs](#)). Student participation is vital to the collaborative learning process. Lectures on course content will be interactive and students are encouraged to ask questions and comment on the material. You need to be in class to participate; habitual tardiness or missing classes will dramatically reduce your participation grade. On-time attendance in class is required. Please notify me if you must be absent for illness or family emergency. Excessive absences (more than **five** lectures) may be grounds for failing the course.
 - 2) Written Assignments (25%): 5 impromptu class writings (15%-GELO 1a;1d); Reflection Assignment (10%-GELO 1a;1d;2a). The impromptu class writings are designed to assess if you are reading the required material for the course. The Reflection assignment will give you an opportunity to think deeply about your experience with the course as a whole.
 - 3) [Group Presentation](#) (15%-GELO 1b;1d;2b). Group presentations will take place in class starting week 9 of the semester, and will continue throughout the end of the semester.
 - 4) Exams (40%-GELO 1a;1c;1d;1e). There will be a midterm exam week 8 (Oct 16) and a final exam week 15. These exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blanks, dates, passage identification, and a series of essays. A review sheet for the midterm will be posted on the syllabus week 5, and a review sheet for the final exam will be posted week 11.
 - 5) Optional Extra Credit (2%-GELO 1a;1c;1d). Read the assigned reading and thoughtfully engage with the material. The article and expectations for the assignment will be sent out week 7.
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GRADING/IMPORTANT DATES:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION	20%
IMPROMPTU WRITING (5 TOTAL; 3 % EACH)	15%
MIDTERM (OCT 16)	15%
GROUP PRESENTATION (WEEKS 9-14)	15%
REFLECTION (DEC 6)	10%
FINAL EXAM (DEC 11)	25%
EXTRA CREDIT (DEC 11)	2%

Grade Scale:	
A=94-100	C=74-76
A-=90-93	C-=70-73
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=84-86	D=64-66
B-=80-83	D-=60-63
C+=77-79	F=0-59

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.

- 1) General Education Mission Statement: PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Final Exam-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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.
- 7) 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.

- 8) **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.
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PANTOJA CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

My classroom is a place where ideas are generated and discussed. We will not all agree on every single issue, but my expectation is that we will respect one another and think carefully about our word choice. I strive to foster a community of shared humanity where all students are appreciated and supported.

Technology is welcome in my classroom. However, if you are planning on using your computer to check social media or shop, please sit in the back of the classroom. Your internet searches may distract other students from engaging with the course material.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- This is a living document, which will continue to evolve throughout the quarter. I reserve the right to change/alter this schedule as the course progresses.
- **Please note that all readings are required and to be completed before class on the day they are assigned (unless otherwise noted).**

Week 1

Aug 28

Monday Schedule-no Class!

- [“A Professor’s Pointers For Success in College”](#)
- [“On Office Hours”](#)

Aug 30

What is the Old Testament?

- Ch 1: What is the Old Testament? (pp. 3-13)
- [Schniedewind, *How the Bible Became a Book*](#) (pp. 1-23)

Week 2

Sep 4

Sacred Space Formation

- Ch 2: The Promised Land (pp. 14-27)
- [Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*](#) (pp. 20-29; 36-37)

Sep 6

Eden Origins

- Ch 3: Creations (pp. 31-45)
- OT: Genesis 1-3 (NIB: pp. 5-13)

Part 1: Torah/Pentateuch

Week 3

- Sep 11 The Documentary Hypothesis (part 1)
- Ch 4: Pentateuch (pp. 46-52)
 - OT: Genesis 4-5 (NIB pp. 13-16)

- Sep 13 The Documentary Hypothesis (part 2)
- Ch 4: Primeval History (pp. 52-62)
 - OT: Genesis 6-9 (NIB pp. 16-23)

Week 4

- Sep 18 The Binding of Isaac
- Ch 5: The Ancestors of Israel (pp. 65-80)
 - OT: Genesis 22 (NIB pp. 42-43)

- Sep 20 The Song of the Sea
- Ch 6: Escape from Egypt (pp. 81-96)
 - OT: Exodus 3, 12, 15 (NIB pp. 89-90; 102-104; 108-109)

Week 5

- Sep 25 Covenant
- Ch 7: From Egypt to Sinai (pp. 97-108)
 - OT: Exodus 19-20 (NIB pp. 113-117)

- Sep 27 The Covenant Code
- Ch 8 part 1: (pp. 109-121)
 - OT: Exodus 20:22-23:33 (NIB pp. 116-121)

Week 6

- Oct 2 The Holiness Code
- Ch 8: part 2: (pp. 122-132)
 - OT: Leviticus 18-20 (NIB pp. 172-176)

- Oct 4 The Shema/Priestly Blessing
- Ch 10: End of the Journey (pp. 147-160)
 - OT: Numbers 6: 24-26; Deuteronomy 6 (NIB pp. 200; 254-255)

Week 7

- Oct 9 The Deuteronomistic History
- Ch 11: Joshua and the Conquest (pp. 161-175)
 - OT: Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 1 (NIB pp. 287-290; 306)

- Oct 11 Kingship & Midterm Review
- Ch 12: Emergence of Israel (pp. 176-191)
 - Judges 19-21 (NIB pp. 377-382)

Part II: The Nevi'im (Prophets & Kings)

Week 8

Oct 16 Midterm

- Oct 18 The Monarchy
- Ch 13: Establishment of Monarchy (pp. 195-208)
 - OT: 1 Samuel 1, 9 (NIB pp. 394-395; 403-404)

Week 9

- Oct 23 King David
- Ch 14: The Reign of David (pp. 209-220)
 - OT: 2 Samuel 6-7 (NIB pp. 449-452)
 - Group Presentation #1: The Line of Zadok

- Oct 25 King Solomon
- Ch 15: The Reign of Solomon (pp. 221-234)
 - OT: 1 Kings 6-7; Psalm 89 (NIB pp. 491-494)
 - Group Presentation #2: The term "Messiah"

Week 10

- Oct 30 The Divided Kingdoms
- Ch 16: The Divided Kingdoms (pp. 235-252)
 - OT: 2 Kings 3 (NIB pp. 528-530)
 - Group Presentation #3: Women of the Monarchic Period

- Nov 1 The Northern Kingdom: Israel
- Ch 17: Northern Kingdom in 8th Century BCE (pp. 253-269)
 - OT: Amos 3-5 (NIB pp. 1283-1287)
 - Group Presentation #4: "The Day of the Lord"

Week 11

- Nov 6 The Southern Kingdom: Judah
- Ch 18: Judah in 8th & 7th Centuries BCE (pp. 270-289)
 - OT: 2 Kings 18-19 (NIB pp. 555-559)
 - Group Presentation #5: Isaiah 7:14 "Immanuel"

Nov 8 Josiah's Reforms

- Ch 19: Judah before the Fall (pp. 290-311)
- OT: 2 Kings 22-23 (NIB pp. 562-565)
- Group Presentation #6: The Ark of the Covenant

Part III: The Khetuvim (The Writings)

Week 12

- Nov 13 The Exile
- Ch 20: After the Fall (pp. 315-330)
 - OT: Lamentations 1-3 (NIB pp. 1144-1150)
 - Group Presentation #7: Acrostic Poems
- Nov 15 The Return
- Ch 21: Return from Exile (pp. 331-343)
 - OT: Isaiah 44 (NIB pp. 1016-1018)
 - Group Presentation #8: “The Servant of Yahweh

Week 13

- Nov 20 The Second Temple Period
- Ch 22: The Restoration (pp. 347-366)
 - OT: Ezra 9-10 (NIB pp. 666-668)
 - Group Presentation #9: Ritual Purity
- Nov 22 **No Class: Thanksgiving!**

Week 14

- Nov 27 The Psalms/1-2 Chronicles
- Ch 23: Retelling The Story of David (pp. 367-382)
 - OT: Psalm 100 (NIB pp. 843)
 - Group Presentation #10: The Samaritans
- Nov 29 Wisdom Literature
- Ch 24: Wisdom of the Sages(pp. 383-405)
 - OT: Proverbs 1:20-33; 8:1-36; 9:1-6 (NIB pp. 898; 905-907)
 - Group Presentation #11: Satan, Leviathan, and Behemoth

Week 15

- Dec 4 Dead Sea Scrolls/Apocrypha
- Appendix: The Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books (pp. 419-427)
 - [Fitzgerald, “Archaeology, the Bible and Modern Faith”](#)
- Dec 6 Final Exam review

Week 16

Dec 11 RLC 101: Section 10 (11 am class) Final Exam (10:30am-1pm)

Dec 13 RLC 103: Section 8 (10 am class) Final Exam (10:30am-1pm)

Timeline of Old Testament History (1200 BCE-20 BCE)
Ancient Israel/Early Judaism

1200	Beginning of Iron Age
1000	King David captures Jerusalem
960	Solomon builds First Temple
928	Division of the United Monarchy
745–612	Assyrian Period
722	Destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel
640	Beginning of the reign of King Josiah of Judah
597–539	Babylonian Period
597	First Babylonian deportation
586	Destruction of the First Temple by Babylonians
539–332	Persian Period
539	Edict of Cyrus
515	Rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem (“Second Temple”)
458	Ezra the priest institutes reforms in Jerusalem
332–63	Hellenistic Period
332	Alexander the Great captures Jerusalem
164–63	Maccabean/Hasmonean Period
164	Rededication of the temple by Maccabees
63	Roman general Pompey captures Jerusalem
20 BCE	Herod beginning remodeling “Second Temple”

Bibliography

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1997 *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*. New York: Ballantine Books.

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