

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
CHU 395 The Christian Tradition
Fall 2019

Instructor: Sam Powell

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Office hours: MWF 1:00-2:30. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by sending me an email.

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Department assistant: 849.2234

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 be able to

- Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development.
- Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.
- Appreciate the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life.

REQUIRED READING:

- Carol L. Flinders, *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics*
- Saint Augustine, *Confessions* (John E. Rotelle, editor, Maria Boulding, translator) New City Press NY
- Elaine Heath, *Five Means of Grace*
- Alister E. McGrath, *Christianity: An Introduction* (available via Ebook Central)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. You may miss up to four sessions without penalty. Every absence after the fourth 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 9 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Exams: There will be two exams. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

3. Reports on assigned articles. You will read six articles related to current issues and then submit responses via Canvas.

4. Canvas discussions about assigned reading.

5. Worship report: Visit a church different from your own twice. If you are Protestant, then attend a Roman Catholic or Orthodox church; if you are Catholic or Orthodox, then attend a Protestant church. You should visit the main worship service. Then write a six page (double spaced) essay in which you respond to these questions:

- Identify the emotions that you felt most acutely during worship: Boredom? Joy? Awe? Reverence? Puzzlement? Hope? Others? Which elements of the worship do you associate with these emotions?
- In which ways was the worship that you experienced on your visits superior to the worship of your church? Which elements of the other church's worship would you like to incorporate into your church's worship? Explain why you would like to incorporate them.
- Which aspects of the worship did you like the least? Identify the reasons for your dislike.

- Summarize your understanding of what worship means for the church that you visited. Why is worship important for the members of that church? How does their worship reflect their theological beliefs and commitments?
- Describe the use of physical media in its worship. This includes icons, statues, banners, decorations of all types, music, incense, stained-glass windows, etc.
- What, in your judgment, was the most important part of the worship service? Explain.
- **Caution: When visiting either a Roman Catholic or Orthodox service, do not participate in communion unless you have been confirmed in that church.**
- Submit this essay in hard copy. Due Friday, November 22 at class time.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Canvas discussions on reading	50 (2.5 points each)
Midterm exam	65
Final exam	100
Canvas reports on assigned articles	60 (10 points each)
Worship report	100

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. 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.

4-Sep	
6-Sep	McGrath, c. 5
9-Sep	McGrath, pp. 65-78
11-Sep	McGrath, pp. 78-82
13-Sep	McGrath, pp. 82-86
16-Sep	McGrath, pp. 86-92
18-Sep	McGrath (continued)
20-Sep	McGrath, pp. 102-106
23-Sep	McGrath, pp. 106-112
25-Sep	McGrath, pp. 112-116
27-Sep	McGrath (continued)
30-Sep	Augustine, book 1
2-Oct	Augustine, books 2 & 3
4-Oct	Augustine, book 4
7-Oct	Augustine, book 4 cont'd, book 5
9-Oct	Augustine, book 5
11-Oct	Augustine, book 6
14-Oct	Augustine, book 7
16-Oct	Augustine, book 7 cont'd
18-Oct	Augustine, book 8
21-Oct	Augustine, book 9
23-Oct	Midterm exam
25-Oct	Fall break
28-Oct	Flinders, Clare of Assisi
30-Oct	Flinders
1-Nov	Flinders, Julian of Norwich
4-Nov	Flinders
6-Nov	Flinders, Catherine of Siena
8-Nov	Flinders
11-Nov	Flinders, Catherine of Genoa
13-Nov	Flinders
15-Nov	Flinders, Theresa of Avila
18-Nov	Flinders
20-Nov	Lecture on American Christianity
22-Nov	Lecture on American Christianity
25-Nov	
27-Nov	Thanksgiving
29-Nov	Thanksgiving
2-Dec	Topics
4-Dec	Topics
6-Dec	Topics

9-Dec	Topics
11-Dec	Topics
13-Dec	Topics
20-Dec	Final exam 7:30-10:00