



School of Theology and Christian Ministry
 CHU 395 SEC 2: The Christian Tradition
 3 Units

Fall 2017

Instructor: Prof. Wilson Ryland	Instructor e-mail: wryland1@pointloma.edu
Phone: 619-929-4530 Office hours: By appointment	Meeting location: BAC 103
Meeting day/times: MWF, 7:25-8:20 am	Final Exam: Monday, December 11, 7:30-10:00am

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

A historical survey of the ideas, practices, and institutions of Christianity from the end of the New Testament period to the present, with attention to the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

The class will examine the origins and development of the church from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the present day. We will explore the major components of the Faith and how they come together to form a coherent and living Tradition. History, key people, and the rich intellectual life of the Church will get attention, but the final aim is to help the student be formed in holiness of life by the Christian Faith so they can participate in the continuation of the Tradition, the ongoing life of Christ, “the faith once delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- 1) Understand and articulate the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development.
- 2) Understand and articulate the distinctive features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.
- 3) Recognize the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life.

REQUIRED TEXTS

David Bentley Hart, [Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and its Fashionable Enemies](#). Yale University Press, 2010.

Henry Chadwick, [Augustine of Hippo: A Life](#), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Kenneth J. Collins, [A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Jaroslav Pelikan, [The Vindication of Tradition](#), New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.

Other articles and handouts as Required

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) [Personal Reflection Essay](#): Name the most important components (people, events, regular habits/practices, books, etc.) of your spiritual formation and describe how they shaped you. 25 points for completing it.
- 2) [Participation Journal](#): The Christian Tradition is not just something you can know by observing from afar. It is a living Tradition; to know it you must live in it. Throughout the semester you are expected to participate weekly in worship with a local church and practice spiritual disciplines (More details on what these are and how you practice them will be given in class). You will keep a journal reflecting on your participation. As you reflect, incorporate concepts and themes from class readings and lectures. One entry per week is expected. Entries should be at least 1/2 page typed, 1 page handwritten. 175 points.
- 3) [Essays on Readings](#): One essay will be written for each of the main books. See the schedule below for due dates. Each essay should be 2 pages. In those pages, provide a basic summary and evaluate how the person (in the case of a biography) or book dealt with the major elements of the Christian tradition that have been introduced in class. 100 points each, 400 total.
- 4) [Exams](#): Both the Midterm and the Final will be in-class, comprehensively dealing with class lectures and readings. See the schedule below for the dates. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer questions, and 1 essay prompt. 200 points each, 400 total.

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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading Scale:

1000 - 930 = A	899-870 = B+	799-770 = C+	699-600 = D
929-900 = A-	869- 830 = B	769-730 = C	Below 599 = 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. If you fall below a C, contact me so we can work to increase 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.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

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 has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled 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.

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 [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

Cheating defeats the whole good end of our classroom work and demeans the professor, the student, and one’s fellow students. In an academic context, it constitutes a mortal sin. If the above policy is not sufficient to deter dishonesty, here is what I have thought of doing, although legal and moral restraints prohibit implementation: 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 simultaneously injected by your classmates; upon execution, the student’s body 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.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students are encouraged to use technology, especially the Canvas site, for learning and communication *outside* of class. In fact, students should be checking their email daily to receive timely course-related communication. *In class, however, the professor has banned the use of electronic devices, except by permission or in the case of specific need.* (Please speak to me if, for example, you require a laptop for learning purposes and we will work out an accommodation.) For the sake of optimal student learning, and knowing the distractions available with just one click, you may not use laptops, tablets, smartphones, or any other screen-device during class. You will abide by [PLNU Netiquette policy](#) for all online interactions.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

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Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known	(Tuesday) Aug. 29 Introductions and Syllabus	Aug. 30	Sept. 1 Personal Reflection Essay Due
2 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known	Sept. 4 - No Class. Labor Day.	Sept. 6	Sept. 8
3 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known	Sept. 11	Sept. 13	Sept. 15
4 Origins of Tradition: Doctrine	Sept. 18	Sept. 20	Sept. 22 David Bentley Hart Essay Due
5 Origins of Tradition: Doctrine	Sept. 25	Sept. 27	Sept. 29
6 Origins of Tradition: Ongoing Life in God	Oct. 2	Oct. 4 Henry Chadwick Essay Due.	Oct. 6
7	Oct. 9 <i>Review</i>	Oct. 11 <i>Midterm</i>	Oct. 13
8 The Reformation	Oct. 16	Oct. 18	Oct. 20 - No Class. Fall Break.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
9 The Reformation	Oct. 23	Oct. 25	Oct. 27
10 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	Oct. 30	Nov. 1	Nov. 3
11 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	Nov. 6	Nov. 8	Nov. 10
12 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	Nov. 13 Kenneth J. Collins Essay Due	Nov. 15	Nov. 17
13 Living Tradition: 19th Century	Nov. 20	Nov. 22 - No Class. Thanksgiving.	Nov. 24 - No Class. Thanksgiving.
14 Living Tradition: Today	Nov. 27	Nov. 29 Jaroslav Pelikan Essay Due	Dec. 1

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
15 Living Tradition: Today	Dec. 4	Dec. 6 Participation Journal Due	Dec. 8 - Review.
Finals Week	Final = Monday, December 11. 7:30-10:00 am.		