

Course Syllabus



POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
CMI672 Wesleyan Theology and Contemporary Ministry
Summer 2014

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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 study of Wesleyan history, theology and practice with implications and applications for ministry in the local congregation.

COURSE DATES

July 7, 2014- September 5, 2014 (Intensive Week: August 4-8, 2014)

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To gain greater understanding of the prominent biblical themes and theological emphases in the ministry of John Wesley.
2. To gain additional knowledge of contemporary interpretations of Wesley's life, ministry and thought for Christian discipleship and ministry.
3. To explore possible models and practices of faithful and transformational Christian ministry, including a renewed appreciation for the sacraments, that arise from contemporary engagements with Wesley.
4. To explore how Wesley's distinctive theological emphases may challenge us today to think of salvation in more inclusive, ecological and cosmic terms rather than simply in individualistic, dualistic or anthropocentric terms.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course student will...

1. Explain the prominent biblical and theological themes that distinguished John Wesley's ministry.
2. Describe healthy models for faithful, transformative Christian ministry that might arise today in response to Wesley's message and ministry.
3. Demonstrate, through the preaching of sermons or the writing of Bible studies, the ability to interact faithfully and, as necessary, critically with Wesley's interpretations of Scripture.

CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a three unit class delivered over

nine weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their course work. The time expectations for this course are shown below:

Assignments	Total Hours
Required Reading	50
Online discussions, forums, groups, etc.	9
Weekly Reflections	16
Assignments	12
Week Long Intensive	32
Final Project	18
Total	120

INSTRUCTORS:

Primary professor: Michael Lodahl, Ph.D. Professor of Theology and World Religions, Point Loma Nazarene University.

Guest author / professor: Fred Sanders, Ph.D. Professor of Theology, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola University.

Guest lecturer: Frank Carver, Ph.D. Professor of Biblical Studies, emeritus, Point Loma Nazarene University.

Guest lecturer: Herb Prince, M.Div. Professor of Philosophy and Religion, emeritus, Point Loma Nazarene University.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

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. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Knight, Henry H., III. *Anticipating Heaven Below: Optimism of Grace from Wesley to the Pentecostals*

Lodahl, Michael. "'The Witness of the Spirit': Clarifying Questions for Wesley's Doctrine of Assurance."

in *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring-Fall 1988).

Lodahl, M. "Responsible Grace in Christology? John Wesley's Rendering of Jesus in the Epistle to the Hebrews"

(co-authored with MA thesis advisee Matthew Hambrick).

in *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Volume 43, No. 1 (Spring, 2008).

Lodahl, M. "Wesley and Nature."

in *Wesleyan Theology and Social Science: The Dance of Practical Divinity and Discovery*,

eds. M. Kathryn Armistead, Brad D. Strawn and Ronald W. Wright (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*

Sanders, Fred. *Wesley on the Christian Life: The Heart Renewed in Love*

Snyder, Howard. *Salvation Means Creation Healed*

Wesley, John. Selected sermons.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your grades will be posted in the Canvas gradebook no later than midnight on Tuesday of each week beginning in Week Two of this course. It is important to read the feedback provided in the gradebook as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted within ten days of the end of the class. Multiple measures of evaluation are used in the course, allowing students opportunities to demonstrate their learning in more than one way, and giving consideration to individual learning styles. Course components that will be evaluated include:

Discussions

Each week students will participate in online discussions with classmates, which are related to the week's readings. These discussions replace the interactive dialogue that occurs in the traditional classroom setting. **Discussions represent 22% of the overall course grade.**

Written Assignments

There are written assignments due in at designated times throughout this course. These assignments must reflect college-graduate writing and critical thinking. **Assignments represent 38% of the overall course grade.**

Final Project

The final assignment for this course involves a choice either of

1) a traditional, 15-20 page research and reflection paper on some issue, topic, doctrine, controversy, etc., arising directly from the reading or class discussions of this course; or

2) a **three-part series** of sermons or Bible studies, to be written out in 'manuscript' format. This series will be built upon some core idea, biblical passage(s), or doctrinal theme that reflects and communicates to a congregation (or Bible study group, Sunday School class, etc.) an important aspect of your learning through engagement with Wesley's theology. These should comprise a coherent series of presentations: perhaps, for example, all in 1 John, or all in Romans, or all on a set of related themes (like 'the witness of the Spirit' or 'caring for creation' or 'Christian perfection', as pertinent examples). They should be 5-7 pages long each, double-spaced, with titles and a biblical passage for a main text.

These will be posted where all student colleagues can read them. Each student will be required to read and comment upon the work of three of his or her student colleagues. Such commentary should be framed and communicated in the spirit of 'constructive criticism'. These comments will be private, seen only by the original author and the professor. The purpose of this final assignment is for you to culminate the learning achieved in the course, and demonstrating it through effective communication with fellow Christian believers. **This final writing assignment represents 30% of the overall course grade, and commenting on three student colleagues' projects represents 10% of the course grade, for a total of 40%.**

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	92-90	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. As a student in this course, you will have a minimum attendance requirement of three days each week. This means you will need to log into Canvas and post an assignment or response on at least three days in each week. Any day missed below this minimum requirement will count as an absence. Students may be dropped from the course if two such absences are recorded during the class and **will be** dropped if four such absences occur or if a student fails to attend class in any given week.

INCOMPLETE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates posted. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for each day an assignment is late. If missing assignments result in the your failure to meet learning outcomes, this instructor may give up to a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

While there are due dates for weekly assignments, you are welcome to post your work earlier in the week. In our discussions, late work means that others may not have the opportunity to respond to your comments. It also means that you will not have the benefit of as much interaction with other students as you will have if your assignment is posted on time. If you know you will be away on the day your assignment is due, please post your work before you leave.

Assignments will be considered late if posted after midnight Pacific Standard Time on the day 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 explained 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 result of another person's creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. An instructor 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 following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

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 request academic accommodations. At PLNU, students must request academic accommodations by filing 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.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. You'll find faith integration activities throughout this course. In addition, there are resources for your Christian faith journey available on the [Graduate Student Life](#) webpage.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This course will meet the federal requirements by posting grades and returning assignments via the Canvas gradebook. 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.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Student Responsibilities and Policies](#).

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Date	Day	Details	
Mon, Jul 7	Mon	Introduce Yourself	due by 11:59pm
Wed, Jul 9	Wed	Writing Tips	due by 11:59pm
Thu, Jul 10	Thu	Learning to Love John Wesley	due by 11:59pm
Thu, Jul 17	Thu	Learning to Love 'Perfect Love'?	due by 11:59pm
Sat, Jul 19	Sat	Wesley's 'Caution against Bigotry'	due by 12pm
Thu, Jul 24	Thu	'The Witness of the Spirit'	due by 11:59pm
Sat, Jul 26	Sat	Does Jesus Christ Embodify 'Responsible Grace'?	due by 12pm
Sat, Aug 2	Sat	Thinking About the Course Final Assignment	due by 12pm
Sun, Aug 3	Sun	'Heaven Above' and The Age to Come	due by 5pm
Thu, Aug 14	Thu	What Was it All About, Ralphie?	due by 11:59pm
Sat, Aug 16	Sat	Wesley's Strange, Wonderful and Classic Sermon, "The General Deliverance"	due by 12pm

Thu, Aug 21 **Thu** **Teaching through Writing** due by 11:59pm

Sat, Aug 23 **Sat** **Learning through Writing** due by 12pm

Sun, Aug 24 **Sun** **Answering Questions** due by 8pm

Thu, Aug 28 **Thu** **What is the Meaning of the End of the World?** due by 11:59pm

Sat, Aug 30 **Sat** **The Coming of God's New Creation** due by 12pm

Mon, Sep 1 **Mon** **Constructive Criticism** due by 12pm

Final Writing Project due by 12pm
