

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

FALL 2018

THE 306 -- THE LIFE OF HOLINESS (3 UNITS)

Dr. Ron Benefiel

Smee Hall 104 (x2613)

Email: ronbenefiel@pointloma.edu

Thursday 3:00-5:30 pm

Community Classroom: Mid-City Church of the Nazarene, 4101 University Avenue, San Diego

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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of the Biblical foundations of the holiness message, Wesleyan theological perspectives set in the context of the history of the Church, and the classic disciplines of spiritual formation.”

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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon Completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the idea and practice of holiness in the Christian tradition.
- Appreciate the characteristic features of the theology and practice of holiness in Wesleyan theology, especially as related to the mission of Point Loma Nazarene University.
- Appropriate practices and disciplines of Christian holiness in everyday life.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Clapper, Gregory S. *As If the Heart Mattered: A Wesleyan Spirituality*. Wipf and Stock. 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1630871475

Lupton, Robert D. *Charity Detox: What Charity Would Look Like If We Cared About Results*. HarperCollins. 2015.

ISBN-13: 978-0062307262.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. Image Books. 1982.

ISBN-13: 978-0385517522.

Thompson, Marjorie J. *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life. (Newly Revised Edition-Enlarged)*. Westminster John Knox Press. 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0664261153.

RECOMMENDED DEVOTIONAL TEXTS

Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*. Discovery House. 2016. ISBN-10: 1627076727

Job, Reuben and Norman Shawchuck. *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*. The Upper Room. 1983. ISBN-10: 0835804607

Young, Sarah. *Jesus Calling*. Thomas Nelson. 2004. ISBN-10: 1591451884

Online/App/Podcast Options:

- He Reads Truth: hereadstruth.com/plans/ (website & app)

- Pray As You Go: pray-as-you-go.org (website & podcast)
- Sacred Space: sacredspace.ie/ (website)
- She Reads Truth: shereadstruth.com/plans/ (website & app)

EXTRA CREDIT READING

Kelley, Thomas. *A Testament of Devotion*.

Kenneson, Philip. *Life on the Vine*

Lewis, C.S. *The Great Divorce*.

Lewis, C.S., *Mere Christianity*.

Smith, James K.A. *Desiring the Kingdom*.

Stott, John. *Basic Christianity*.

Welch, Reuben. *We Really Do Need Each Other*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Class attendance and participation:** Come to class prepared having read the assigned readings for the day.
- **Reflection papers:** Submit a reflection paper for each of the required texts. Papers will be due as indicated in the syllabus course schedule. Late papers will receive a reduction in grade. Reflection papers should be 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, font size 12). Each paper should have three parts:
 1. A general overview of the major themes. (What did the author say?)
 2. Your thoughtful engagement and critique of major themes. (What do you think about what the author said?)
 3. Your personal/practical response and “take-away”. (So what?)
- **Quizzes and Final Exam:** In most class sessions there will be quizzes on the assigned reading and class lectures. The final exam will be comprehensive.

- **Participation in Christian Disciplines**

1) Works of Piety: Journaling, Personal Prayer and Bible Study.

Compile a journal of your life in Christ. Set aside regular time on your own in prayer, reading Scripture and journaling. Each journal entry should include reflections on Scripture, prayers, theological insights and/or reflections on your participation in Christian community and mission. Ideally, this would be a daily practice. Your journal is personal. At the end of the semester, you need only show the professor that you kept a journal but do not need to turn it in.

2) Works of Mercy: Christian Ministry and/or Community Service

This requirement may be fulfilled through any of a number of ministry or service opportunities, including: participation in a PLNU student ministry, volunteering in a homeless shelter, serving at a charity race, going on a weekend mission experience, etc. Preference should be given to completing this assignment through ministry or community service in the City Heights neighborhood. Please confirm with the professor if there is any question regarding the suitability of a particular ministry/service activity for fulfillment of the assignment.

- *Submit a log that shows you spent a minimum of 45 hours in the Christian disciplines with a minimum of 15 hours set aside for each type of discipline. (For example, for full credit you may log 15 hours in one discipline and 30 in the other, or split your time more evenly between the two disciplines).*

3) Christian Community: Christian Formation Discussion/Accountability Group

Participation in your in-class discussion/accountability group will provide you an opportunity to share your experiences in journaling, class readings, and ministry/service activities. Groups will meet during class time. Class participation points are awarded on the basis of attendance. Students with no unexcused absences will receive full credit. Each unexcused absence will reduce the number of participation points by 25.

- **Community Dinners.** An integral part of Community Classroom is our monthly dinner event. A catered meal from the area is provided on site at Mid-City Church of the Nazarene from 5:00-6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to breaking bread together, we will hear from members of the City Heights community as they share their journeys with us. The dinner on September 20 will be incorporated into class time with the class beginning at 4:15 pm. **Students may receive 10 points of extra credit for each additional dinner attended.** The dinners will be held on the following dates:
 - Thursday, September 20th
 - Tuesday, October 16th
 - Monday, November 12th
 - Tuesday, December 4th

- **Reading Extra Credit:**

- A student may receive up to 25 extra credit points for reading and submitting a 2-3 page reflection paper for each book reviewed from the recommended reading list. The maximum extra credit that a student may earn for extra reading is 100 points.

GRADING

A student will receive points based on the completion and demonstration of proficiency of class requirements according to the following (each number represents the total points possible):

Class Attendance and Small Group Participation	100
Reflection Papers on Assigned Reading	300
Quizzes on Lectures and Assigned Reading	250
Participation in Christian Formation Practices (100/each)	200
Final Exam	150
TOTAL	1,000

GRADING SCALE

925-1000	A
900-924	A-
875-899	B+
825-874	B
800-824	B-
775-799	C+
725-774	C
700-724	C-
675-699	D+
625-674	D
600-624	D-
Below 600	F

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 turning in the final examination **on its scheduled day**. 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) 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.

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.

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 SoTCM urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Overall Theme	Readings (to be done by class date)	Assignment & Community Classroom Notes
8/30	Course Introduction		
9/6	Christian Theology & Wesleyan Perspective	Clapper: Intro & Ch. 1	
9/13	Christian Theology & Wesleyan Perspective	Clapper: Ch. 2 & 3	
9/20	Christian Theology & Wesleyan Perspective	Clapper: Ch. 4 & 5	Class includes CC dinner. Begins at 4:15. Clapper Reflection Paper Due
9/27	Spiritual Disciplines	Thompson: Intro & Ch. 1-2, Lupton: Ch. 1	

10/4 Spiritual Disciplines	Thompson: Ch. 3-4, Lupton: Ch. 2	
10/11 Spiritual Disciplines	Thompson: Ch. 5-6 Lupton: Ch. 3	
10/18 Spiritual Disciplines	Thompson: Ch. 7-8 Lupton: Ch. 4	
10/25 Spiritual Disciplines	Thompson: Ch. 9-10 Lupton: Ch. 5	Thompson Reflection Paper Due
11/1 Discipleship in Action	Nouwen: Intro, Ch. 1-2 Lupton: Ch. 6	
11/8 Discipleship in Action	Nouwen: Ch. 3-4 Lupton: Ch. 7	
11/15 Discipleship in Action	Nouwen: Ch. 5-6 Lupton: Ch. 8	
11/29 Discipleship in Action	Nouwen: Ch. 7-8, Lupton: Ch. 9	Lupton Reflection Paper Due
12/6 Discipleship in Action	Nouwen: Ch. 9 & Epilogue	Nouwen Reflection Paper, Log of Hours and Journals Due
12/13 Final Exam		