



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Bib 102: New Testament History and Religion

3 Units

Fall 2018

T-R	Instructor: Chris Nafis
Section 2: 9:30-10:45am CM 115	Phone: (619) 942-3692
Section 7: 8:00-9:15am T 106	Email: cnafis@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Section 2: Thursday, December 13 at 10:30am Section 7: Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30am	Office Hours By Appointment – please call or email to make an appointment

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

“Within the context of Christian origins, an overview of the canonical literature of the New Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.”

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at PLNU, 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.”

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the New Testament.
- 2) Articulate the unity of the Old Testament and New Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon.
- 3) Articulate and appreciate the ways in which the Bible, understood as given by divine inspiration, functions as the church's central norm for Christian discipleship, faith and practice.
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Class Participation: 5 pts

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class session. Your Bible is also expected to attend every class session. Attendance will be taken and school policies enforced.

Reading: Come to class prepared. Read everything that is assigned. Be prepared to discuss the content of the Biblical texts and the secondary reading.

Weekly(ish) Reflection Journal (On Canvas): 10 Points

10 Entries Required over the course of the Semester (one per week maximum)

Answer these questions in 280 characters or less:

What class content/discussion surprised you this week?

What class content/discussion challenged you, personally?

Was there any sort of paradigm shift for you this week? If so, what was it?

Introduce us to a Book/Section of the New Testament (Group Presentation): 15 Points

Groups of 3 or 4 will introduce each book/group of books of the New Testament to the rest of the class. The presentation should include the genre of the text, the details of its authorship, the basic structure (the general story being told/argument being made), the general themes, and the problems/controversies/points of contention. It should also include things like particularly challenging passages, examples of artistic or literary interpretations of the text, or other aspects of the text that the class may find noteworthy, interesting, and/or helpful. Presentations should last 20-25 minutes.

Experiential Learning: 15 pts

Students will make a site visit and interview a leader/organizer to gain a new perspective on issues presented in the New Testament. Students will write an 800-1000 word reflection on this experience, highlighting the ways that what they saw, heard, touched, and smelled will help them better understand the New Testament.

Three Options (choose 1):

“Stigma” Option: Visit and volunteer in a Christian ministry that serves a stigmatized population that might be considered “untouchable”, “stigmatized”, or “taboo,” Examples might be: the unsheltered, LGBTQ+, refugees/immigrants, sex workers, etc... Interview both a leader/organizer and a member of the stigmatized population. Ask about the barriers that stigma creates for people and the significance of crossing those barriers. Ask how the New Testament has influenced their ministry and how the ministry has influenced their interpretation of the New Testament. (Due 9/21)

“Intentional Christian Community” Option: Visit an intentional Christian community that is shaped by the New Testament and interview a resident. Ask about the challenges of living in close community the way that the New Testament has shaped the community, and ask how living in community has shaped their interpretation of the New Testament. (Due 10/19)

“Messianic Synagogue” Option: Visit and interview the Rabbi/leader of a Messianic Jewish Synagogue. Ask about Torah observance in a messianic community, about the relationship between Jews and gentiles in the church today, and how Torah observance and Jew/gentile relationships have been shaped by the New Testament (particularly by Paul’s letters). (Due 11/2)

Text Analysis: 15 pts

Students will select a pericope to analyze in detail using the outline that will be provided. More details will be provided (including text options). (Due 11/30)

Gospel Exam on October 11th: 15 pts

Paul Quiz on October 23rd: 5 pts

Final Exam (see above for dates/times): 20 pts

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 (8/30)		Class Overview, Brief introduction to New Testament Studies
Week 2 (9/4, 9/6)	The New Testament World Read: <i>Intro to NT</i> chapter 1 and 2	The New Testament Writings Read: <i>Intro to NT</i> chapter 3
Week 3 (9/11, 9/13)	The Gospel According to Mark Read: <i>Intro To NT</i> chapter 7	Mark cont... Read: TBA

Week 4 (9/18, 9/20)	The Gospel According to Matthew Read: <i>Intro To NT</i> chapter 6	Matthew cont... “Stigma” Assignment Due Read: TBA
Week 5 (9/25, 9/27)	The Gospel According to Luke Read: <i>Intro To NT</i> chapter 8	Luke cont... Read: TBA
Week 6 (10/2, 10/4)	The Gospel According to John Read: <i>Intro To NT</i> chapter 9	John cont... Read: TBA
Week 7 (10/9, 10/11)	Gospel Review	Gospel Exam
Week 8 (10/16, 10/18)	The Acts of the Apostles Read: <i>Intro To NT</i> chapter 10	Act cont... Intentional Christian Community Due Read: TBA
Week 9 (10/23, 10/25)	Philemon Read: Philemon and <i>Intro to NT Chapter 23</i>	Paul: The Apostle Read: <i>Paul: An Apostle’s Journey (All)</i> Paul Quiz
Week 10 (10/30, 11/1)	Romans Read: <i>intro to NT Chapter 13</i>	Romans Cont... Messianic Synagogue Due Read: TBA
Week 11 (11/6, 11/8)	1 and 2 Corinthians Read: <i>Intro to NT chapters 14 and 15</i>	Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians Read: <i>Intro to NT chapters 16-18</i>
Week 12 (11/13, 11/15)	Pastoral Letters Read: <i>Intro to NT chapter 22</i>	Cont... Read: TBA
Week 13 (11/20, 11/22)	Hebrews and James Read: <i>Intro to NT chapters 24-25</i>	NO CLASS
Week 14 (11/27, 11/29)	Petrine Literature Read: <i>Intro to NT chapters 25-26</i>	Johannine Literature Text Analysis Due Read: <i>Intro to NT chapter 28</i>
Week 15 (12/4, 12/6)	Revelation Read: <i>Intro to NT chapter 30</i>	Cont... Read: TBA

Finals Week (12/11, 12/13)	Final Exam (TBA)	
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REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. A standard translation of the Bible. There are many options, but do not choose a paraphrase or a translation by a single individual. I will most often be reading out of the NRSV.
2. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* by Mark Allan Powell
3. *Paul: An Apostle's Journey* by Douglas A. Campbell

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class Participation – 5 pts ● Journal Online – 10 pts ● Group Presentation – 15 pts ● Experiential Learning – 15 pts ● Text Analysis – 15 pts ● Gospel Exam – 15 pts ● Paul Quiz – 5 pts ● Final Exam – 20 pts 	<u>Grade Scale:</u>	
	A=93-100 A-=92-90 B+=87-89 B=83-86 B-=80-82 C+=77-79	C=73-76 C-=70-72 D+=67-69 D=63-66 D-=60-62 F=0-59

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in 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.

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 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.