

**Point Loma Nazarene University**  
**School of Theology & Christian Ministry**  
**Spring 2014**

**Course:** Theology 250. Foundations of Christian Theology I.  
MWF 1:30-2:25, SB 100

**Professor:** Dr. Michael Lodahl. Office – Smee 206  
Office phone 849-2331, home phone (619) 297-0395, cell (858) 405-3184.

**Texts:** Hall, Christopher. *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*  
Placher, William. *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology*  
Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*  
Wright, N.T. *Scripture and the Authority of God:*  
*How to Read the Bible Today*  
Various readings / articles as selected by your professor.

**Objectives:** 1) To introduce students, especially theology majors, to the root convictions, methodologies and pressing concerns of classical and contemporary Christian theological reflection; and  
2) To explore the crucial doctrines of Christian faith in their complex and rich interrelations, and in relation to Christian life, practice and ministry. Doctrines to be explored during this semester include: divine revelation in the history of the people Israel and particularly in Jesus Christ; scriptural testimony and authority; Scripture in relation to tradition, reason and experience; the nature and attributes of God the Creator and Sustainer of all things; human beings in the image of God; human sin and divine grace; divine predestination and human agency / responsibility.  
3) To become more effective communicators of theological ideas through reading and writing good theological prose.

**Course Requirements:**

- 1) Faithful attendance to class and reading of assigned materials. You will be held responsible for the assigned reading each day you step into the classroom. On many if not all days, a brief quiz will be administered that addresses main points in the reading for the day. *It is your responsibility to stay current in the reading.*
- 2) Spiritual autobiography paper, 5-6 pages in length, that introduces your life, significant experiences, sense of calling, particular interests, etc., to your professor. I invite and encourage you to be yourself in this paper. I hope you will feel free also to mention or discuss any theological / spiritual issue or question that is troubling you. This paper is for the purposes of my getting to know you better – and also to give you an early indication of possible opportunities for improvement in your writing. **This paper is due Monday, Feb. 10, at classtime.**

### **Course Requirements, cont'd:**

- 3) A brief paper on hamartiology (the doctrine of sin), in thoughtful response to Cornelius Plantinga's *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*, as described in the Course Calendar, April 9-11. **This paper is due Monday, April 14, at classtime.**
- 4) Research term paper, 10-12 pages (not counting the *title page*, which is required, with a suitable and at least minimally creative title), with a minimum of 12 bibliographical resources (books and journal articles) and 300 pages of reading. This paper will address a particular doctrine, theologian, or theological controversy that is relevant to the subject material of the present course. All term paper topics are to receive approval from the professor. **This paper is due Friday, May 2, at classtime.**
- 5) Two examinations as scheduled in Course Calendar. The second exam is the final examination and will be comprehensive.

### **Course Grade:**

Your grade will be calculated on the basis of attendance / participation, including quizzes (20%); spiritual autobiography paper (12%); paper on the doctrine of sin (10%); research term paper (22%); midterm examination (16%); and final exam (20%).

Each class day attendance is worth 5 quiz points; quizzes will vary in point total, roughly anywhere between another 5 and 15 points on any given day. Extra-credit points are added to the attendance / participation / quizzes category.

On any writing assignment, if it is handed in later in the day than at classtime of the due date, it will receive a 5 point reduction (out of a scale of 100). For each day the paper is late thereafter, it will receive another 7 point reduction.

### **On Writing:**

I cannot emphasize enough that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a *highly* critical role in my evaluation of all your papers – and that you are *strongly encouraged* to solicit the benefits of at least one competent proofreader for your assigned papers.

Additionally, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry at PLNU is committed to the equality of women and men, including in the exercise of the gifts and graces of ministry in local church congregations. Recognizing that people have often used 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 discussions and in written work.

## Other Matters:

All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of class. The ASC will contact professors with suggested classroom needs and accommodations. Approved documentation must be on file in the ASC prior to the start of the semester.

***Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty regarding academic work.***

## Course Calendar:

### January

- 14 – Introduction of ourselves and of the course. What is theological reflection?  
(Preface to C. Hall, *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*)
- 15 – Hall, 15-33 (C. 1, Preparing to Learn Theology with the Church Fathers)
- 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart,” from *Strength to Love*
- 20 – No class; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. (“A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart”)
- 22 – Wright, 83-105 (C. 6, The Challenge of the Enlightenment);  
brief reading on the ‘Wesleyan quadrilateral’ from M. Lodahl
- 23-25 Big extra-credit opportunity: “Exploring Origins” Conference at PLNU. Please see syllabus Appendix.**
- 24 – Class will meet for the “Exploring Origins” Conference panel discussion: “Talking About Creation in the Academy and the Church” (Class attendance will be taken and will be worth ‘double’ .)**
- 27 – Hall, 53-64 (up to *Further difficulties*).
- 29 – Hall, 64-74.
- 31 – Hall, 74-81, Placher 121-124 (on Augustine)

### February

- 3 – Placher, 1-21
- 5 – Placher, 21-42
- 7 – Placher, 43-62
- 10 – Placher, 62-81. **Spiritual autobiography papers due at classtime.**
- 12 – Placher, 83-97
- 14 – Placher, 97-118

## Course Calendar, cont'd

17 – Wright, 41-59 (In anticipation of the Wiley Lectures below – )

**Further extra-credit opportunities: 25 points each lecture possible in the Wiley Lecture Series: Dr. Stanley Porter will present four lectures over this three-day period on the general theme, “Did Paul Meet Jesus Before the Damascus Road?: The Evidence and the Implications.”**

*All lectures will be presented on PLNU’s main campus in the Crill Performance Hall of Cooper Music Center. Please note that the first lecture coincides with Wednesday’s class session; attendance will be taken and will be worth ‘double.’*

19 – Class will meet for Lecture 1; see immediately below. No reading due for this day.

Lecture 1	"What Scholars Have Said in the Past"	Wednesday, February 19, 1:30-2:20
Lecture 2	"What Scholars Now Say"	Thursday, February 20, 9:30 - 10:20 am
Lecture 3	"What the Bible Does and Does Not Say"	Thursday, February 20, 1:30 - 2:20 pm
Lecture 4	"The Implications of Paul Having Met Jesus"	Friday, February 21, 11:00 - 11:50 am

21 – No reading. Discussion of Porter lecture(s) in light of course content and objectives.

24 – Placher, 119-136.

26 – Placher, 136-156.

28 – Recapitulation: The Doctrine of the Triune God (no reading assignment)

## March

3 – Hall, 123-136

5 – No class. Finish reading Hall’s chapter on “Sin, Grace and the Human Condition.”

**7 – Mid-term examination.**

## Spring Break

17 – Plantinga, preface and introduction.

19 – Plantinga, 7-27.

21 – Plantinga, 28-51.

## Course Calendar, cont'd

- 24 – Plantinga, 52-112. Professor is out of town this week. Please complete assigned  
26 – reading and send an email to [mlodahl@pointloma.edu](mailto:mlodahl@pointloma.edu), signifying that  
28 – the reading was completed. Include at least two pertinent observations or insights  
you gained from the reading, and at least one good question that the reading  
inspired in you. This is *due no later than Friday, March 28, 5 p.m.*,  
and will be worth 25 attendance / participation points.

31 – Plantinga, 113-128.

## April

2 – Plantinga, 129-149.

4 – Plantinga, 150-172.

7 – Plantinga, 173-199.

- 9 – Professor is out of town this week. Please finish Plantinga and, in the light  
11 – reading this book, write a 3-4 reflection paper on “What Plantinga Taught  
Me about Sin” – at classtime on Monday, April 14 (immediately below).

## 14 – Paper on hamartiology due.

No reading; we will spend this day to recapitulate the doctrine of sin.

16 – Hall, 261-273 (Augustine on the doctrine of resurrection – in anticipation of . . . )

## *Easter Recess*

23 – Hall, 207-223.

25 – Wright, 21-39.

28 – Wright, 61-81.

30 – Wright, 107-127.

## May

2 – Wright, 128-142. **Term research paper due at classtime.**

**9 – Final examination, 1:30 – 4 p.m.**

## Appendix

### “EXPLORING ORIGINS” CONFERENCE AT POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY:

Please keep in mind that the point totals listed are maximum *possible*, not automatic. For each extra-credit assignment, to receive points you must A) attend the session in its entirety; B) be sure to sign the sign-in sheet with Lodahl; and C) write a response / reflection paper of 2-3 pages, double-spaced, in which you describe and summarize the main ideas you encountered during the session, and then offer your own thoughtful response to those ideas. Of course you should feel free to disagree with what you heard, but be sure to give adequate reasons for your disagreement.

These extra-credit points are entered into the attendance / quiz category of the course.

#### Conference schedule with extra-credit opportunities:

##### THURSDAY EVENING, January 23 (50 points)

7 PM	Introductions: Mark Mann, Thomas Oord, Bob Brower, and Dee Kelley <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worship and Communion</li><li>• Setting up the Conversation: Thomas Oord and Mark Mann</li></ul>
8:30 PM	Panel: "The Promise of and Challenges for Theistic Evolution" - Mike Lodahl, Mark Quanstrom, and Burton Webb
9:30 PM	Benediction

##### FRIDAY EARLY MORNING SESSION, January 24 (50 points)

8 AM	Worship, Scripture, Prayer
8:30 AM	Panel: "Science and Models of Creation" - Darrel Falk, Karl Giberson, Paul Madtes, Georgia Purdom
9:30 AM	Table Discussions
10:15 AM	Break

<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 10:30 AM</p>	<p><b>LATE MORNING SESSION (50 points)</b> Panel: "Interpreting the Bible: Creation Narratives and Contemporary Science" - Bob Branson, Brad Kelle, and Jeff Stackert</p>
<p>11:30 AM</p>	<p>Table Discussion</p>
<p>12 noon</p>	<p>LUNCH (participants eat on campus or off-site, as they wish)</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 2 PM</p>	<p><b>EARLY AFTERNOON SESSION (50 points)</b> Panel: "Talking About Creation in the Academy and the Church" - Jennifer Chase, Scott Daniels, Kerry Fulcher, Phil Hamner</p>
<p>2:45 PM</p>	<p>Table Discussion</p>
<p>3:15 PM</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 3:30 PM</p>	<p><b>LATE AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (25 points)</b> Workshops and Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Groups: Science (led by Mark Winslow), Theology (led by Timothy Crutcher), and Bible (led by TBD)</li> <li>• Workshop Presenters: Joseph Bankard, Robert Branson, Charles Carrigan, John Dally, Darrel Falk, Kerry Fulcher, Karl Giberson, Lowell Hall, Michael Lodahl, Paul Madtes, Grant Miller, Georgia Purdom, Steven Smith, Jeffrey Stackert, Burton Webb</li> </ul>
<p>4:30 PM</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 4:45 PM</p>	<p><b>EVEN LATER AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (25 points)</b> Workshops and Working Groups 2</p>
<p>5:45 PM</p>	<p>End of session</p>

6:30 PM	Banquet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "From the Dust" video</li> <li>• Dean Nelson interviews Karl Giberson and Darrel Falk on "The Evolution Conversation in the Culture, Academy, and Church (especially the Church of the Nazarene)"</li> </ul>
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**SATURDAY MORNING SESSION, January 25 (30 points)**

8:30 AM	Worship and Scripture
9 AM	Panel: "What About Design in Creation?" - Paul Madtes, Mark Mann, Mark Winslow
9:45 AM	Working Groups: Science (led by Mark Winslow), Theology (led by Tim Crutcher), and Bible (led by Robert Branson and Jeffrey Stackert)