

Point Loma Nazarene University
School of Theology & Christian Ministry
Spring 2018

Point Loma Nazarene University 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: Theology 250. Introduction to Christian Theology.
T-Th, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m., RLC 101.

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

Texts: Doak, Mary. *Divine Harmony: Seeking Community in a Broken World*
Heidt, Mari Rapela. *A Guide for Writing about Theology and Religion*
Lodahl, Michael. *The Story of God: A Narrative Theology* (2nd ed.)
Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *The Apostles' Creed in Light of Today's Questions*
Wynkoop, Mildred Bangs. *Foundations of Wesleyan-Arminian Theology*

Objectives: **1)** To introduce students, especially theology majors, to the root convictions, methodologies and pressing concerns of classical and contemporary Christian theological reflection;

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 in their interrelationships with one another 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; Christology; ecclesiology; pneumatology; sacramental theology and eschatology;

3) To develop an understanding and appreciation for the distinctive emphases and contributions of the Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition, particularly in regard to the doctrine of entire sanctification; and

through
4) To become more effective communicators of theological ideas reading and writing good theological prose.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to

- 1) explain the importance of theological reflection for the life and ministry of the Christian church;
- 2) distinguish among the various sub-disciplines of theology and their corresponding emphases and rationales;
- 3) describe the deep interconnections among the doctrines of Christian faith – especially God, creation, Christology, humanity, and sin; and
- 4) appreciate the rich historical heritage of theological reflection, especially as received and enriched by the Wesleyan theological tradition;
- 5) demonstrate growth and improvement in writing skills pertinent to academic theological studies.

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.*
(CLOs 1-4)
- 2) Close attention to Mari Rapela Heidt's *A Guide for Writing about Theology and Religion*. You will be held accountable for reading and internalizing Heidt's very helpful book by sending to your professor, via e-mail attachment, a reading report for each chapter as specified in this syllabus's Course Calendar. In that report, you will inform the professor regarding the number of pages you read carefully, and then will list a

- minimum of three important points or suggestions you learned from the specified chapter. (CLO 5)
- 3) 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 Wednesday, January 24, 8 p.m.** (CLO 1)
 - 4) A reflection paper, 5-6 pages in length, on the interrelationship between the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of the Church in Christian theology. This paper will incorporate Scripture, class lectures and discussions, as well as the relevant reading from assigned texts – especially Shelley Rambo’s lectures and writing. (CLOs 2, 3) **This paper is due Tuesday, April 3, to be handed in at classtime.**
 - 5) 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 and should be written (and will be evaluated) on the basis of Heidt’s excellent instructions. This paper is due at classtime on Thursday, April 18.** All term paper topics are to receive approval from the professor. **This paper is due Thursday, April 19, at the beginning of classtime.** (CLOs 3, 4)
 - 6) Two examinations as scheduled in Course Calendar. The second exam is the final examination and will be comprehensive. (CLOs 1-3)

Course Grade:

Your grade will be calculated on the basis of attendance / participation, including quizzes and responses to Heidt’s book (16%); spiritual autobiography paper (12%); paper on the doctrines of Christ’s resurrection and the Church (14%); research term paper (22%); midterm examination (16%); and final exam (20%).

On Attendance

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 Punctuality

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 and other often marginalized people, the SOTCM strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and in written work.

Other Matters:

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, or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's efforts. 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 (please note that in summer school, this means two days' worth of classes!), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (our four day's worth of classes), 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.

Semester Academic Work Policy:

Please note that when the semester ends, so do all opportunities to work to improve your grade. No last-minute or after-the-fact appeals for extra credit will be even briefly considered.

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.

Course Calendar:

January

11 – Introduction of ourselves and of the course. What is theological reflection?

16 – Pannenberg, foreword, 1-14; Lodahl, 13-30

18 – Pannenberg 15-26; Lodahl, 31-48
(Friday, 1/19, response to Heidt, c. 1, due no later than 4 p.m. 15 points attendance / participation)

23 – Lodahl, 49-64; Pberg 27-43
(Wednesday, 1/24, spiritual autobiography due no later than 8 p.m.)

25 – Lodahl 65-98
(Friday, 1/26, response to Heidt, c. 2, due no later than 4 p.m.)

30 – Lodahl 99-124

February

1 – Lodahl 125-152
(Friday, 2/2, response to Heidt, c. 3, due no later than 4 p.m. 15 points)

6 – Pannenberg 44-77

8 – Pannenberg 78-95; Lodahl 153-164

13 – Selected essay by Shelley Rambo.

Big extra-credit opportunities this week with the Wiley Lectures in Theology Series. You are encouraged to attend as many of these lectures as your schedule permits. Extra credit assignments always involve, in addition to attendance, a summary / reflection / response paper, 2 – 2 ½ pages in length, for each lecture you attend. There is a maximum possibility of 25 points for each lecture or event.

The 2017-2018 H. Orton Wiley Lectures in Theology

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Shelly Rambo

(Associate Professor of Theology, Boston University School of Theology)

Lecture Series: *Faith in Post-Traumatic Times: Encountering Resurrection Wounds*

February 14—16, 2018

(all main lectures in Crill Performance Hall)

--Lecture #1: Lockdown: A Climate of Fear and “Posts”

*Wed. Feb. 14, 2018 11:00-11:50am

--Lecture #2: Seeing Invisible Wounds

*Wed. Feb. 14, 2018 1:30-2:20pm

--Lecture #3: Touching Invisible Wounds

*Thurs. Feb. 15, 2018 9:30-10:20am

--Lecture #4: Believing in the After-Living

*Fri. Feb. 16, 2018 8:30-9:20am

***Additional Event:** *Brewed Awakening Conversation (sponsored by the Center for Justice and Reconciliation) on trauma, wounds, trafficking, and recovery--
Thursday Feb. 15, 2018 @ 3:30pm in Fermanian Conference Center*

15 – Excerpt from Rambo, *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma*

20 – Excerpt from Krista Tippett, *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters – And How to Talk About It*

22 – Pannenberg 96-127

(Friday, 2/23, response to Heidt, cc. 4-5, due no later than 4 p.m. 15 points)

27 – Pannenberg 128-159

March

1 –Midterm Exam

5-9 – Spring Break

13 – Pannenberg, 160-169; Wynkoop, intro and 17-34. ***Term research paper topic due at classtime. This includes proposed title, paper outline, and working bibliography all in proper format. (20 points in attendance / participation category.)***

15 – Wynkoop, 35-69

(Friday, 3/16, response to Heidt, c. 6, due no later than 4 p.m. 15 points)

20 – No class; read Lodahl 165-190

22 – Wynkoop, 70-105

(Friday, 3/23, response to Heidt, Appendix A, due no later than 4 p.m. 15 points)

27 – Doak, chapters 1-2

29 – **Easter break; no class.**

April

3 – Doak chapters 3-4. ***Reflection paper on relationship between the resurrection of Jesus and the Church, hard copy, due at classtime.***

5 – Doak chapters 5-6.

10 – Doak chapters 7-8. Mary Doak, guest lecturer

12 – Wynkoop 106-127; Lodahl 191-203

17 – LDS week! Excerpts from Steven Webb, *Mormon Christianity: What Other Christians Can Learn from the Latter-day Saints*, 143-158; Robert Millett, *A Different Jesus? The Christ of the Latter-day Saints*, 81-89

19 –Millett 89-119. Your professor is involved in an ongoing dialogue between Nazarene and LDS religious scholars; these discussions will occur on PLNU campus on Thursday and Friday. I am hopeful that this dialogue will open up to include our class on this date. There will also be an extra-credit opportunity on Thursday evening involving a Wesleyanism-Mormonism forum discussion.

****Term paper, hard copy, due at classtime and no later.***

24 – Lodahl 205-236

26 –Pannenberg 170-178

May 1 – Final Examination, Tuesday 1:30 – 4 p.m.