

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
THE 305 Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences
Fall 2018

Instructor: Sam Powell

Telephone: 849.2334

Website: www.samuelmpowell.com

Department assistant: 849.2234

Office hours: MW 10:30-12:00 and TTh 1:30-2:30. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

Office: Wesleyan Center

Director's Office

Email: spowell@pointloma.edu

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to:

- Interpret relevant biblical texts responsibly
- Analyze the elements of the Christian doctrine of creation
- Appraise the significance of scientific theories for Christian theology

REQUIRED READING:

- John H. Walton, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2-3 and the Human Origins Debate*
- Scot McKnight and Dennis R. Venema, *Adam and the Genome*
- Peter Clarke, *All in the Mind*
- Peter Bussey, *Signposts to God*

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. You may miss up to four sessions without penalty. Every absence after the fourth will result in a deduction of 1/2% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 6 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Book critique (4 double spaced pages). See instructions.

3. Argumentative paper (7 double spaced pages): Write an essay in which you argue for a thesis of your choosing. See handouts for advice. To succeed, you will need to:

- State a thesis (the proposition for which you will be arguing).
- Argue persuasively for your thesis (provide reasons, assembled into a coherent argument).
- Use authorities correctly (support your arguments with references to authorities in the field).
- Compile a bibliography with proper formatting. The bibliography should contain at least five sources, including at least two books and two articles from journals.
- Use correct grammar and spelling.

4. Lead class discussion: Prepare and outline of topics, discuss their importance, and present questions for discussion.

GRADING:

- Class discussion #1 3.33%
- Class discussion #2 3.33%
- Class discussion #3 3.33%
- Book critique 15%
- Argumentative paper 30%
- Midterm exam 15%
- Final exam 30%

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES:

- <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/>
- Encyclopedia of Science and Religion:

http://go.galegroup.com.pointloma.idm.oclc.org/ps/eToc.do?userGroupName=sand82993&prodId=GVRL&inPS=true&action=DO_BROWSE_ETOC&searchType=BasicSearchForm&docId=GAL E%7C9780028659114&contentSegment=9780028659114

- <http://www.theopedia.com/>
- <http://www.oxfordreference.com.pointloma.idm.oclc.org/>

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- The final exam may not be taken early. **MAKE HOLIDAY TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- 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 department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.
- Academic honesty. Students who present the work of others as if their own commit plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the words or ideas of others without citation. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Cheating on an exam will result in loss of all points for the exam. Additionally, plagiarism and cheating will result in a written report being filed with vice-provost for academic administration.

PLNU Policies

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 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.