

Point Loma Nazarene University
School of Theology and Christian Ministry
Fall 2017

*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 306. The Life of Holiness, Sec. 2.
M-W-F, 8:30 – 9:25, Ryan Learning Center 101

Professor: Dr. Michael Lodahl. Office – Smee Hall 205 mlodahl@pointloma.edu
Office phone 849-2331, cell (858) 405-3184.

Texts: *Augustine, *Confessions*. (Penguin Classics ed., translated by R.S. Pine-Coffin)
*Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*.
(Penguin Classics ed., translated by Elizabeth Spearing)
*Farley, Wendy. *The Thirst of God: Contemplating God's Love with Three Women Mystics*
*Luther, Martin. *On Christian Liberty*
*Wesley, John. *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*
(Edited and annotated by Randy Maddox and Paul Chilcote)

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 *Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the idea and

Learning practice of holiness in the Christian tradition.

Outcomes: *Explain the characteristic features of the theology and practice of holiness in

Wesleyan theology.

*Explain the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life.

Requirements:

1) Consistent class attendance and participation. You are encouraged (though not required) to bring a Bible (your favorite translation will be fine) to class. Attendance will play a significant role in the grading process.

2) Careful and disciplined reading of assigned texts for each class session. This will be determined primarily both by participation in class discussions, and possibly also by occasional unannounced quizzes.

3) Two reflection papers, the first one 3-5 pages in length double-spaced (Times-Roman, Garamond or Californian font, 12-point size) and the second one 5-7 pages, on topics described immediately below and (as will be) discussed in class. You are encouraged to utilize assigned reading materials in these papers. It is also quite acceptable and even encouraged for you to draw on Scripture, ideas we discuss in class, or other ideas you have learned as a university student as you write your reflection papers. The papers will be due as scheduled in the syllabus course calendar.

- **First essay assignment: please write a 3-5 page spiritual autobiography ‘in the spirit of Augustine’ – about family and church upbringing and experiences, and how you believe that these have shaped you. *Additionally*, I strongly encourage you to include in this paper some reflections upon the specific ‘place’ (or places) where you grew up, especially a place that may have had spiritual significance in your life – whether it be out camping, mountain climbing, surfing, sailing, or even your own backyard. How do you go about thinking theologically about the significance of specific physical place(s) and times in your life? How might you begin to relate those experiences of God’s creation to what you are learning about the life of holiness?**
- **Second essay assignment: choose any of the specific ideas or themes that we have either read about, or discussed, in this class and develop it further in a 5-7 page essay. It may be a specific biblical passage that you’d like to reflect upon further, or possibly a passage we have not addressed in class reading and discussion, or perhaps some theological idea / doctrine or controversy. Feel free to develop your idea or theme for this paper in consultation with your professor.**

You must utilize at least five books or journal articles outside class reading, totaling a minimum of 100 pages of reading. You are to include

your outside reading sources (and number of pages read from each source) in your paper's bibliography.

OR

(See next page!)

You may instead choose to read a book from the following list of possibilities and write a thoughtful review, reflection and response essay on the book. Books from which you may choose:

Clapper, Gregory. *As If the Heart Mattered: A Wesleyan Spirituality*

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology*

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Woman, Earth and Creator Spirit*

Lodahl, Michael and Masciewicz, April. *Renewal in Love:*

Living Holy Lives

in God's Good Creation

Nouwen, Henri. *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*

Oord, Thomas Jay and Lodahl, Michael. *Relational Holiness*

Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer*

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World*

Winner, Lauren. *Mudhouse Sabbath*

OR

You may choose to do a worship visit reflection paper.

This assignment is to write a paper of 5-7 double spaced pages (besides bibliography) about the worship service of *a church that you will visit twice*. There are some stipulations:

- You will be visiting a church different from your own. If you are a Protestant (or if Protestantism is the branch of Christianity with which you are most familiar), you will attend either a Roman Catholic or Orthodox church service. If your background is Roman Catholic or Orthodox, you will visit an evangelical Protestant service (including Charismatic and Pentecostal churches, Baptist churches, Nazarene, Wesleyan and Methodist churches and independent churches such as Calvary Chapel).
- You should visit the church's main worship service; this will normally be on Sunday. However, if your schedule does not permit a Sunday visit, large Roman Catholic congregations will have several services on Saturday and Sunday.

The assignment: After reading about the worship practices of the church you selected and visiting a particular church's worship service twice, write the report and include the following points:

\$ Determine whether the worship is primarily liturgical or not. Provide the historical

reasons why it is or is not liturgical.

\$ Describe the extent to which the church employs physical media in its worship. This includes icons, statues, banners, decorations of all types, music, incense, stained-glass windows, etc. Try to explain why the church you visited uses the physical media that it does use and why it does not use others.

\$ Determine whether preaching is a central part of worship. If it is, provide the historical reasons why it is.

\$ How did music function in the worship service?

\$ How did prayer function in the worship service?

\$ What was the most important part of the worship service?

\$ How was the Bible used in the worship service?

Caution: When visiting either a Roman Catholic or Orthodox service, do not participate in communion unless you have been confirmed in that church.

4) Two objective exams as scheduled, including a comprehensive final exam.

- **Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a *highly* critical role in your professor's evaluation of all your papers – and that you are *required* to solicit the benefits of at least one competent proofreader for your papers, the name of whom shall be included with or on your paper.**
- **Additionally, the PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men as created together in God's image. Recognizing that people have often used 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 discussions and especially in their writings.**

Final Grade:

Will be determined on the basis of attendance and participation, including quizzes (15%), the two reflection papers (15% on the first, 25% for the second) and the two exams (20% for the first, and 25% for the final).

Grading scale: 94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+; 73-76, C; 69-72, C-; 66-68, D+; 62-66, D; 58-61, D-; below 57.5, F.

- **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 in academic work.**

Course Calendar: Do the assigned reading for each day prior to the class session.

August

29 – Introduction to the course: God's call upon God's people to share in God's holiness.

30 – Augustine's *Confessions*, Introduction, and Book I, Chapters 1-5.

September

1 – *Confessions* Book I, Chapters 6-20. *Search me, O God, and know my heart . . .*

4 – *Confessions* Book II, Chapters 1-9 and Book III, Chapters 1-12.

6 – *Confessions* Book III, Chapter 1 – Book IV, Chapter 16.

8 – *Confessions* Book V, Chapters 1-14 and Book VI, Chapters 1-5.

11 – *Confessions* Book VI, Chapters 6-16 and Book VII, Chapters 1-6.

13 – *Confessions* Book VII, Chapters 7-21 and Book VIII, Chapters 1-5.

15 – *Confessions* Book VIII, Chapters 6-12 and Book IX, Chapters 1-6.

18 – *Confessions* Book IX, Chapters 7-13 and Book X, Chapters 1-8.

20 – *Confessions* Book X, Chapters 9-34.

22 – *Confessions* Book X, Chapters 35-43 and Book XI, Chapters 1-16.

25 – *Confessions* Book XI, Chapters 17-31 and Book XII, Chapters 1-15.

27 – *Confessions* Book XII, Chapters 16-32 and Book XIII, Chapters 1-13.

29 – *Confessions* Book XIII, Chapters 14-38.

We will have some guests in class today for small group discussion of Augustine.

Please keep in mind, too, that your first reflection paper will be due on Canvas Thursday of next week, 11:59 p.m.

October

2 – Julian of Norwich's *Revelations*, Introduction (xii-xxxiii).

4 – *Revelations*, Translator's Note (xxxvii-xlii) and pages 3-27.

5 – ***First reflection paper due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Canvas.***

In this essay, please write a 3-5 page spiritual autobiography 'in the spirit of Augustine' – about family and church upbringing and experiences, and how you believe that these have shaped you. *Additionally*, I strongly encourage you to include in this paper some reflections upon the specific 'place' (or places) where you grew up, especially a place that may have had spiritual significance in your life – whether it be out camping, mountain climbing, surfing, sailing, or even your own backyard. How do you go about thinking theologically about the significance of specific physical place(s) and times in your life? How might you begin to relate

those experiences of God's creation to what you are learning about the life of holiness?

6 – No class; finish reading Julian's 'short text' of the *Revelations* (28-38).

9 – *Revelations* 41-67.

11 – No class; professor gone to hang out with pastors of Central California.

Assigned reading: Lodahl essay on Canvas, "Divine Holiness."

13 – *Revelations* 67-93.

16 – *Revelations* 93-124.

18 – *Revelations* 125-153.

20 – **Fall Break.**

23 – *Revelations* 153-180.

25 – Catching up and Midterm review!

27 – **Midterm examination.**

30 – Martin Luther's *On Christian Liberty* Introduction (vii-x) and pages 1-30.

November

1 – *Christian Liberty* 30-62.

3 – *Christian Liberty* 62-74 and "An Open Letter to Pope Leo X" (75-94)

6 – John Wesley's *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*, editors' Preface and Introduction (9-30)

8 – *Plain Account* 33-66.

10 – *Plain Account* 66-99. *Please note that next week you will be required to let me know which of the three essay options you will pursue.*

13 – *Plain Account* 99-127.

15 – *Plain Account* 127 -160.

17 – No class; professor off to Boston for the American Academy of Religion annual meeting.

Due on Canvas no later than 5 p.m.: a brief description of which of the three essay

options you will be working on for this course.

Thanksgiving week: no class meetings. Work on your paper!

27 – Wendy Farley's *The Thirst of God*, Note to Readers (ix-xi), and Introduction, Prologue, Chapter 1 (1-26).

29 – *Thirst*, 27-58.

December

1 – No class; professor off to Provo, Utah to hang out with LDS scholars at BYU. *Please note that this is the optimum opportunity to finish your essay assignment that is due early next week.*

4 – *Thirst*, 59-94.

5 – Essay assignment due on Canvas no later than 8 p.m.

6 – *Thirst*, 95-124.

8 – *Thirst*, 125-148. *No written work will be accepted after this class session.*

13 – Final examination, 7:30 – 10 a.m.