

Course Syllabus

Point Loma Nazarene University

THE 306 Life of Holiness (Section 3 -- 3 units)

Fall 2015

[Printable Version](#)  

Community Classroom

Thursday 3:00-5:30

(Except for joint activities with the Community Classroom as noted in the Course Schedule).

Dr. Ron Benefiel

Smee Hall 104 (Phone extension: 2613)

email: ronbenefiel@pointloma.edu

Catalog 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 Learning Outcomes

Upon Completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the idea and practice of holiness in the Christian tradition.
- Appreciate the characteristic features of the theology and practice of holiness in Wesleyan theology, especially as related to the mission of Point Loma Nazarene University.
- Appropriate practices and disciplines of Christian holiness in everyday life.

Texts

Boyle, Gregory. *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. Free Press. 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1-4391-5315-4.

Clapper, Gregory S. *As If the Heart Mattered: A Wesleyan Spirituality*. Wipf & Stock. 1997. ISBN-13: 978-1-62564-642-2.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. Image Books. 1982. ISBN-10: 0385517521.

Wright, N.T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. Harper San Francisco. 2006. ISBN-10: 0-06-050715-2.

Recommended Resource

Job, Reuben, Norman Shawchuck. *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*. The Upper Room. 1983. ISBN-10: 0-8358-0460-7

Extra Credit Reading

Kelley, Thomas. *A Testament of Devotion*.

Lewis, C.S. *The Great Divorce*.

Lewis, C.S., *Mere Christianity*.

Stott, John. *Basic Christianity*.

Welch, Reuben. *We Really Do Need Each Other*.

Course Requirements

- 1) **Class attendance and participation:** Come to class prepared having read the assigned readings for the day. You are encouraged to bring a Bible.
- 2) **Reflection papers:** Submit a reflection paper for each of the required texts. Reflection papers should be 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, font size 12). Each paper should have three parts:
 - a) A general overview of the major themes. (What did the author say?)
 - b) Your thoughtful engagement and critique of major themes. (What do you think about what the author said?)
 - c) Your personal/practical response and "take-away". (So what?)

Papers will be due as indicated in the syllabus course schedule. Reflection Papers on "Simply Christian" and "Compassion" will each be worth a maximum of 100 points. The maximum for *As If the Heart Mattered* and *Tattoos on the Heart* will be 50 points each. Late papers will receive a reduction of one letter grade. No papers will be accepted more than a week late.

- 3) **Quizzes and Final Exam:** In most class sessions there will be quizzes on the assigned reading and class lectures. The final exam will be comprehensive.
- 4) **Participation in Christian formation practices**

a) journaling, personal prayer and bible study

Compile a journal of your life in Christ. Set aside regular time on your own in prayer, reading Scripture and journaling. Each journal entry should include reflections on Scripture, prayers, theological insights and/or reflections on your participation in Christian community and mission. Ideally, this would be a daily practice. Your journal is personal. At the end of the semester, you need only show the professor that you kept a journal but do not need to turn it in.

b) Christian ministry and/or community service

This requirement may be fulfilled through any of a number of ministry or service opportunities, including:

- participation in a PLNU student ministry.
- visiting people who are sick or in prison.
- volunteering in a homeless shelter.
- participating in environmental clean-up.

Preference should be given to completing this assignment through ministry or community service in the City Heights neighborhood. Please confirm with the professor if there is any question regarding the suitability of a particular ministry/service activity for fulfillment of the assignment.

For full credit, submit a log that shows you spent a minimum of 45 hours in these Christian disciplines with a minimum of 15 hours set aside for each of the disciplines. (For example, for full credit you may log 15 hours in one discipline and 30 in the other, or split your time more evenly between the two disciplines).

c) Participate in a Christian formation discussion/accountability group

Participation in a discussion/accountability group will provide you an opportunity to share your experiences in journaling, class readings, and ministry/service activities. Groups will meet during class time. Class participation points are awarded on the basis of attendance. Students with no unexcused absences will receive full credit. Each unexcused absence will reduce the number of participation points by 25. (A student with more than four unexcused absences will be de-enrolled).

5) **Extra Credit:** A student may receive up to 50 extra credit points for reading and submitting a 2-3 page reflection paper for each book reviewed from the recommended reading list. The maximum extra credit that a student may earn for extra reading is 100 points. Students will receive 25 extra credit points for attending community classroom dinners scheduled for Tuesday evenings.

Grading

You will receive points based on your completion and demonstration of proficiency of class requirements according to the following (each number represents the total points possible):

Class Attendance and Small Group Participation	100
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Reflection Papers on Assigned Reading	300
Quizzes on Lectures and Assigned Reading	240
Participation in Christian Formation Practices (125/each)	250
Final Exam	110
TOTAL	1,000
Extra Credit Reading/Reflection Paper	
Extra Credit for Attending Tuesday CC Dinners	

Grading Scale:

925-1000	A
900-924	A-
875-899	B+
825-874	B
800-824	B-
775-799	C+
725-774	C
700-724	C-
675-699	D+
625-674	D
600-624	D-
Below 600	F

PLNU Academic Policies

Academic Accommodations:

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set by the professor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services available to them in the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as required by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

Late Work:

Assignments turned in late will, in most cases, receive a reduction in grade. When assignments cannot be turned in on time due to circumstances beyond the student's control, the student should discuss the specific situation with the professor.

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 SoTCM urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

Academic Honesty:

The Point Loma Nazarene University community holds the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all aspects of university life. Academic honesty and integrity are strong values among faculty/staff and students alike. Any violation of the University's commitment is a serious affront to the very nature of PLNU's mission and purpose. 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. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that particular assignment or examination, and/or the course.

Course Schedule

9/3	Course Introduction	
9/10	Wright: Intro, Ch. 1-4	
9/12		Class meets from 9am-12:30
9/17	Wright: Ch. 5-7, Boyle: Intro	Class meets from 4:30-7:00
9/24	Wright: Ch. 8-10, Boyle Ch. 1	
10/1	Wright, Ch. 11-13, Boyle Ch. 2	
10/8	Wright: Ch. 14-16, Boyle, Ch. 3	Wright Reflection Paper Due
10/15	Clapper: Intro, Ch. 1,2, Boyle, Ch. 4	
10/22	Clapper: Ch. 3,4,5, Boyle, Ch. 5	Clapper Reflection Paper Due
10/29	Nouwen: Intro, Ch. 1,2, Boyle Ch. 6	
11/5	Nouwen: Ch. 3,4, Boyle, Ch. 7	
11/12	Nouwen: Ch. 5,6, Boyle Ch. 8	
11/19	Nouwen: Ch. 7, 8, Boyle Ch. 9	Boyle Reflection Paper Due
12/3	Nouwen: Ch. 9, Epilogue	Nouwen Reflection Paper Due
12/10		Class meets from 4:30-7:00 Log of Hours and Journal Due
12/17	Final Exam	