

BIB 1001: Old Testament History and Religion (2 units)

Dr. Pantoja (pan-toe-ha)

Fall 2019

Pt. Loma Nazarene University

jpantoja@pointloma.edu

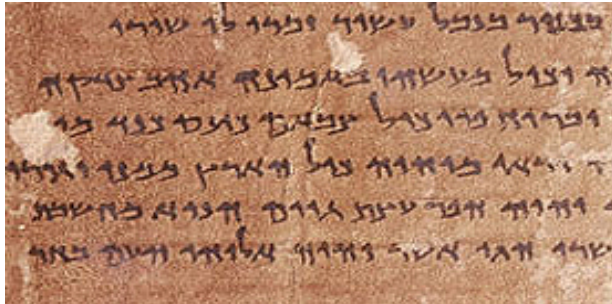
Section 6: T/Th 10-10:55 am Evans Hall 114

Section 8: T/Th 11–11:55 am Evans Hall 114

Student Hours: before and after class, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Bib 101 will survey the historical, literary, and cultural context of the Old Testament Scriptures. The rich literary and prophetic traditions associated with this collection of books serves as a precursor to the Christian texts. Therefore, recognizing key themes and the basic layout of the Old Testament, will enhance both learning and devotion.



There is not enough time in one semester to grasp the entirety of this incredible literature, but we will engage deeply with specific texts. Some of the questions we will ponder: What is sacred space? How is the divine depicted in the Scriptures? What are some of the recognized theories of the canonization process? How does God’s relationship with ancient Israel evolve throughout the texts? What is monotheism? Why is “land” a central theme in the meta-narrative? What clues are given

in the Torah for the establishment of the monarchy at Jerusalem? How did Jewish sectarianism in the Second Temple period pave the way for the birth of the Jesus Movement?

My hope is that this course will not only strengthen your oral communication and critical thinking skills, but will also fortify your personal faith journey.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

- [Brad Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story* \(Abignon Press, 2017\)](#)-free e-book for PLNU student
- [New Interpreter’s Study Bible- \(NRSV version\)](#)-optional or [Biblegateway.com](#) (free online Bible) Readings linked into the syllabus
- [Bible Odyssey](#)-great resource for the latest research on the Bible

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the Old Testament
- 2) Articulate the unity of the Old Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon.
- 3) Articulate and appreciate the ways in which the Bible, understood as given by divine inspiration, functions as the church's central norm for Christian discipleship, faith and practice.
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Course attendance and participation (20%-[All GELOs](#)). 5 impromptu class writings (15%-GELO 1a;1d). The impromptu class writings are designed to assess if you are critically reading the required material for the course, as well as to evaluate your engagement with course topics. The dates for the impromptus will not be specified in advance. You can make-up ONE of the impromptu class writings by attending an approved lecture on campus and writing up the following [Impromptu Prompt](#). Participation (5%)-student participation is vital to the collaborative learning process. My lectures are interactive and students are encouraged to ask questions and comment on the material. You need to be in class to participate. Please notify me if you must be absent for illness or family emergency.
- 2) Exams (45%-GELO 1a;1c;1d;1e). There will be a midterm exam week 8 (Oct 22) and a final exam week 16. These exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blanks, dates, passage identification, maps, and a series of short essays. A [review sheet for the midterm](#) will be posted on the syllabus week 5, and a review sheet for the final exam will be posted week 13.
- 3) [Discussion Group Leader Assignment-10am Section](#) [Discussion Group Leader Assignment-11am Section](#) (15%-GELO 1b;1d;2b)-I will arrange the class in groups of 6 students each during week 5. Starting week 6, each member of the group will have an opportunity to lead the discussion (see syllabus calendar for discussion dates). There will be a written component to this assignment as well (lesson plan & reflection). The discussions will be 20 minutes long and will be related to the reading for that day, as well as the previous lecture.
- 4) Artifact (10%-GELO 2b)-Create an artifact representing a topic you found interesting this semester. Possible ideas: a painting, a drawing, a sculpture, a psalm, a photograph, an original song/musical arrangement, etc. We will talk more about this in detail in class.
- 5) Reflection Assignment (10%-GELO 1a;1d;2a). The Reflection assignment will give you an opportunity to think deeply about your experience with the course as a whole. Your artifact choice will also be incorporated into the reflection assignment.

GRADING/IMPORTANT DATES:

IMPROMPTU WRITING (5 TOTAL; 3 % EACH)	15%
MIDTERM (OCT 22)	20%
DISCUSSION LEADER & LESSON PLAN	15%
ARTIFACT (DUE DEC 10 IN CLASS)	10%
REFLECTION (DUE DEC 12 TO CANVAS)	10%
PARTICIPATION	5%
FINAL EXAM	25%

Grade Scale:	
A=94-100	C=74-76
A-=90-93	C-=70-73
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=84-86	D=64-66
B-=80-83	D-=60-63
C+=77-79	F=0-59

PLNU 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.

- 1) General Education Mission Statement: PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts, informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Final Exam-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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.

- 6) **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**-While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses. If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.
 - 7) **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, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, 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.
 - 8) **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 school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, terms like "man" or "mankind" or the pronoun "he," should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead, "people," "humanity," "humans," and "he or she" better acknowledge women as full persons.
-

PANTOJA CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

My classroom is a place where ideas are generated and discussed. We will not all agree on every single issue, but my expectation is that we will respect one another and think carefully about our word choice. I strive to foster a community of shared humanity where all students are appreciated and supported.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- This is a living document, which will continue to evolve throughout the semester. I reserve the right to change/alter this schedule as the course progresses.
- **Please note that all readings are required and to be completed before class on the day they are assigned (unless otherwise noted).**

Week 1

- Sep 5 Introduction
- [2018 Employer Research Report](#)
 - [“A Professor’s Pointers For Success in College”](#)
 - [PLNU General Education Learning Outcomes](#)

Week 2

- Sep 10 What is the Old Testament?
- [King and Hedges, “What is Religion?”](#) (pp. 1-5)
 - [Ch 1: Introduction \(pp. 1-16\)](#)
- Sep 12 Sacred Space Formation
- [Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*](#) (pp. 20-29; 36-37)
 - [King and Hedges, “What is Religion?”](#) (pp. 8-17)
 - Ch 2: The Old Testament as Story (pp. 17-28)

Part 1: Torah/Pentateuch

Week 3

- Sep 17 Eden Origins/Documentary Hypothesis (part 1)
- OT: Genesis 1-3 (NIB: pp. 5-13)
 - [King and Hedges, “What is Religion?”](#) (pp. 26-30)
 - Ch 3: The Introduction of God’s Mission (pp. 29-42 hardcopy; page numbers are different in e-book)
- Sep 19 ANE Creation Myths/Documentary Hypothesis (part 2)
- [Schmiedewind, *How the Bible Became a Book*](#) (pp. 1-23)
 - Ch 3: The Introduction of God’s Mission (pp. 43-54)

Week 4

- Sep 24 Cain/Abel & The Flood Narrative
- OT: Genesis 4-5; 6-9 (NIB pp. 13-23)

- Sep 26 Call of Abraham & The Binding of Isaac
- OT: Genesis 12, 22 (NIB pp. 42-43)
 - Ch 4: The Calling and Creation of God's People (pp. 55-70)
 - [Breakdown of Flood Narrative into Sources](#)-optional/recap of Monday
 - [New Amsterdam TV episode](#) (optional/for fun-*Akedah* story)

Week 5

- Oct 1 The Song of the Sea & The Divine Name
- OT: Exodus 3, 6, 15 (NIB pp. 89-90; 94-95; 108-109)
 - Ch 4: The Calling and Creation of God's People (pp. 70-79)
 - [Canaanite Religion](#) handout

- Oct 3 Covenant-10 Commandments
- OT: Exodus 19-20, 34 (NIB pp. 113-117; 134-138)
 - Ch 5: The Formation of God's People (pp. 81-97)
 - Choose Discussion Leader dates (see pg. 2 for google doc of prompt)
 - [Pantoja, *The Metaphor of the Divine*](#) (optional-ch 3; pp. 53-74)

Week 6

- Oct 8 The Covenant Code & Holiness Code
- OT: Exodus 20:22-23:33; Leviticus 18-20 (NIB pp. 116-121; 172-176)
 - [Leviticus Overview Video](#) (8 min)
 - Ch 5: The Formation of God's People (pp. 97-109)

- Oct 10 The Deuteronomistic History
- OT: Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 1 (NIB pp. 287-290; 306)
 - Ch 6: In the Promised Land (pp. 111-123)
 - Discussion #1

Week 7

- Oct 15 The Shema/Priestly Blessing
- OT: Numbers 6: 24-26; Deuteronomy 6 (NIB pp. 200; 254-255)
 - [Shema](#)
 - Discussion #2

- Oct 17 [Midterm Review](#) (click here)

Week 8

- Oct 22 **Midterm**

Part II: The *Nevi'im* (Prophets & Kings)

- Oct 24 The Monarchy
- Judges 19-21 (NIB pp. 377-382)-warning: violence/assault
 - Ch 6: In the Promised Land (pp. 123-134)

Week 9

- Oct 29 King David
- OT: 2 Samuel 5: 4-10; 6-7 (NIB pp. 447-452)
 - [Brettler, "Introduction to the *Nevi'im* \(Prophets\)"](#) (pp. 87-92)

- Oct 31 The Psalms
- [Psalm 1 & Psalm 23 w/Commentary](#)
 - Discussion #3

Week 10

- Nov 5 King Solomon
- OT: 1 Kings 6-7; Psalm 89 (NIB pp. 491-494)
 - [Brettler, "Introduction to the *Nevi'im* \(Prophets\)"](#) (pp. 93-98)The Psalms

- Nov 7 The Divided Kingdoms
- OT: 2 Kings 3 (NIB pp. 528-530)
 - [Stager, "Jerusalem and the Garden of Eden"](#)
 - Discussion #4

Week 11

- Nov 12 Hezekiah and the Assyrians
- ["Sennacherib's Campaign against Judah"](#)
 - OT: 2 Kings 18-19 (NIB pp. 555-559)

- Nov 14 Josiah's Reforms & Exile
- OT: 2 Kings 22-23 (NIB pp. 562-565)
 - OT: Lamentations 1-3 (NIB pp. 1144-1145)
 - Discussion #5

Podcast ["Rabbi Nathum On The Liberating Path"](#)

Week 12

- Nov 19 The Second Temple Period/Jewish Sectarianism
- OT: Ezra 9-10 (NIB pp. 666-668)
 - Ch 7: Exile and Return (pp. 135-149)

- Nov 21 Themes Within Prophetic Literature
- OT: Isaiah 40-41; 50
 - Ch 8: The Voices of Israel's Poets, Prophets, and Sages (pp. 151-163)

Week 13

Nov 26 No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 28 No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Part III: The Khetuvim (The Writings)

Week 14

- Dec 3 The Writings/Wisdom Literature
- OT: Song of Songs 1-2
 - OT: Proverbs 1:20-33; 8:1-36; 9:1-6 (NIB pp. 898; 905-907)
 - Ch 8: The Voices of Israel's Poets, Prophets, and Sages (pp. 163-178)

- Dec 5 Gender and the Bible
- Discussion #6

Week 15

- Dec 10 The Jesus Movement
- [Fitzgerald, "Archaeology, the Bible and Modern Faith"](#)
 - Ch 9: The End is the Beginning (pp. 179-194)

Artifact-Present to Discussion Group

- Dec 12 Final Exam Review
- Durel Survey-- $\frac{1}{3}$ letter grade bump up on exam if you complete the IDEA Survey (i.e., a B+ would become an A-)

Reflection Assignment Due-upload to Canvas by 11:59pm!

Finals Week

- Dec 17 Evans Hall 114: Section 6 (10am class) Final Exam (10:30am-1pm)
- Dec 19 Evans Hall 114: Section 8 (11am class) Final Exam (10:30-1pm)

Timeline of Old Testament History (1200 BCE-20 BCE)
Ancient Israel/Early Judaism

1200	Beginning of Iron Age
1000	King David captures Jerusalem
960	Solomon builds First Temple
928	Division of the United Monarchy
745–612	Assyrian Period
722	Destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel
640	Beginning of the reign of King Josiah of Judah
597–539	Babylonian Period
597	First Babylonian deportation
586	Destruction of the First Temple by Babylonians
539–332	Persian Period
539	Edict of Cyrus
515	Rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem (“Second Temple”)
458	Ezra the priest institutes reforms in Jerusalem
332–63	Hellenistic Period
332	Alexander the Great captures Jerusalem
167-164	Maccabean Revolt
164–63	Maccabean/Hasmonean Period
164	Rededication of the temple by Maccabees
63	Roman general Pompey captures Jerusalem
20 BCE	Herod beginning remodeling “Second Temple”

Early Christianity/Late Roman

4 BCE–30 CE	Life of Jesus of Nazareth
5–67 CE	Life of Paul the Apostle
66	Beginning of First Jewish Revolt
70	Destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem

Bibliography

Armstrong, Karen

1997 *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Coogan, Michael

2015 *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in its Context*. New York: Oxford University Press, 3rd edition.

Eliade, Mircea

1959 *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*. New York: Harper & Row.

Fitzgerald, John

2014 "Archaeology, the Bible and Modern Faith." In *The Changing World Religion Map*, 1111-1122.

Freedman, David Noel et al., eds.

1992 *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 1st ed. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday.

Kelle, Brad

2017 *Telling The Old Testament Story*

Pritchard 1995

Schniedewind, William

2004 *How the Bible Became a Book*. New York: Cambridge University Press.