



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

BIB1001.1 Old Testament History and Religion

2 Units

Spring 2020

Meeting days: Mon & Wed	Instructor title and name: Prof. Stephanie Matthews
Meeting times: 11:00-11:55am	Phone: 619-849-2950
Meeting location: RLC 103	E-mail: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Wed, May 6 10:30am-1:00pm	Office location and hours: Smee 211 By appointment (set up via email)

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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to open a conversation (that will hopefully last a lifetime) about the Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Bible). The class provides an introduction to (1) the literature/content of the Old Testament in its social, historical, literary, and theological contexts; and (2) the critical study of the Old Testament. Along these lines, this course is designed as a *journey*, which serves to introduce the student to the basic content of the divine-human drama that unfolds within the pages of the Bible and to equip the student with the foundational tools and skills to continue the dialogue with that drama throughout his or her life.

Cognitive development will be encouraged through textbook readings, classroom discussions/lectures, and periodic examinations. Social development will be encouraged through small group discussions and exercises as well as through the relating of biblical concepts to contemporary social issues. Spiritual development will be encouraged through a dialogue with the dynamic faith of the Christian Scripture, a faith that grew out of the community of believers and continues to challenge and shape that community in contemporary settings.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- 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; and,
- 4) Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

GE 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.

Note: 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Michael Coogan, et.al., eds., *New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University, 2018), ISBN: 9780190276072.
2. Brad E. Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story: God's Mission and God's People* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2017), ISBN: 9781426793042.
3. Matthew Richard Schlimm, *This Strange and Sacred Scripture: Wrestling with the Old Testament and Its Oddities* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015), ISBN: 9781426793042.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment distribution by percentage:		Grade scale:	
• Reading homework	35%	A=94-100	C=74-76
• Midterm exam	20%	A-=90-93	C-=70-73
• Group presentation	15%	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
• Final Exam	25%	B=84-86	D=64-66
• Class Participation	5%	B-=80-83	D-=60-63
		C+=77-79	F=0-59

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation and Attendance: In this abbreviated journey through the story of the OT, class attendance is a necessity for optimum academic achievement. *If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings (more than THREE [3] classes), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (more than SIX [6] classes), the student may be deenrolled 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. In addition, each student is expected to participate actively in class by contributing to the discussions on the basis of his or her reading of the assigned material.*

**NOTE: Giving false information on the daily roll sheet (i.e. signing someone else in or having someone else sign you in) is an act of cheating that is equal to cheating on an exam. It will subject you to the academic dishonesty penalties of the university, including failure of this course and possible expulsion from the university.*

Readings & Reading Check-ins: The OT is the primary text for this course. *Please bring your Bible to class.* All readings are required. It is important to keep up with the readings on a session-by-session basis or the information will quickly become overwhelming. *A significant part of the student's grade comes from homework and quizzes over the assigned reading material (see below).* There will be **weekly** check-ins that cover all reading assignments since the last quiz. Students completing 11 assignments may drop their lowest score; students completing 12 may drop the two lowest scores. The assignment for the Wiley Lectures is required, and its score cannot be dropped.

Mid-Term exam: The midterm exam will cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures through March 2. Questions from previous quizzes may appear on the midterm exam along with new questions. A study guide will be provided.

Group Presentation on an OT Book: In addition to more traditional methods of presentation by the professor, our course will have a significant element of small group work and discussion during various class sessions. Rather than a course in which the professor simply imparts a massive amount of information for students to regurgitate, students will work together to read closely, think collaboratively, and formulate thoughtful responses to texts and issues (an additional, hoped-for benefit of such assignments is to invite the students into the practices of true liberal arts education, namely, academic reading, thinking, collaborating, and writing, rather than outcome-based standardized test taking). The major instance of such work will be that each student will participate in an assigned small group and make a class presentation on an assigned book from the OT. The presentation should be **8 minutes in length** and **follow the instruction sheet on Canvas**. Each group member will receive the same group grade for the presentation, adjusted for peer- and self- evaluation. Due dates are on the course schedule.

NOTE: a PowerPoint presentation with Works Cited must be emailed to the professor by noon on the day before your presentation.

Final exam: As the culmination to the semester, there will be a final exam in class on May 6. It will cover all course material from Mar 4 onward. A study guide will be provided.

Extra Credit: Students wishing to receive extra credit may submit a 3-4 page essay reflection on a chapter from the Schlimm textbook. Interested students should contact the instructor for the rubric. Students may earn up to 2% to add to the overall grade.

COURSE 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

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. *(continued, next page)*

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.

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.

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.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

Discrimination or harassment related to race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity or orientation, religious choice, or any other type of behavior that dehumanizes human beings or dismisses difference, is not conducive to a good learning environment and is harmful to human vitality and healthy community. These behaviors will not be tolerated. I encourage all students to be open to any honest, respectful, and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Required Reading	Assessment	Mini-lecture
Tue, Jan 14	Call of Abraham & Sarah	(Kelle 17-28)		Genesis
Wed, Jan 16	To and From Egypt	K 58-79		Exodus
<i>MLK, Jr. Day – No Mon Class</i>				
Wed, Jan 22	Sinai & Ancient Contexts	Schlimm 104-120	Reading HW	Leviticus
Mon, Jan 27	Tabernacle & Wandering	K 90-105	Reading HW	Numbers
Wed, Jan 29	Entering the Land	K 106-117		Deuteronomy & Joshua
Mon, Feb 3	Judges & Ruth	S 139-159	Reading HW	Judges & Ruth
Wed, Feb 5	Kingship: Samuel & Saul	K 118-125		1 Samuel
Mon, Feb 10	Kingship: David & Bathsheba	K 125-133	Reading HW	2 Samuel
Wed, Feb 12	King Solomon & the Temple	<i>Attend Wiley Lectures</i>		1 Kings
Mon, Feb 17	King Ahab–Fall of the North		Reading HW (Wiley Lectures)	2 Kings
Wed, Feb 19	Prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Hosea & Amos	K 163-171		Hosea & Amos
Mon, Feb 24	Judah and its Prophets	<i>Jer 1; 26; 29:1-14</i>	Reading HW	Isaiah, Jeremiah
Wed, Feb 26	Exile	K 133-139		Lamentations
Mon, Mar 2	Prophets: Oracles & God’s Wrath	K 169-171 S 180-197		Habakkuk
Wed, Mar 4	Prophets: Hope in Exile	K 172-175	Midterm Exam (Online) due Friday	Ezekiel, Zephaniah
<i>Fall Break</i>				
Mon, Mar 16	Communal Identity Formation	K 139-147	Reading HW	Daniel & Esther

Wed, Mar 18	Interpreting: Creation	K 32-42		Genesis 1-2
Mon, Mar 23	Mesopotamian Influences	K 43-54 S 12-27	Reading HW	Genesis 3-11 Zephaniah
Wed, Mar 25	Interpreting: Call of Abe & Sarah, and the Exodus	K 55-68		
Mon, Mar 30	Interpreting: Sinai & Wandering	S 121-138 K 99-102	Reading HW	1 & 2 Chronicles
Wed, Apr 1	Interpreting: Entering the Land	S 160-179		Obadiah, Jonah & Nahum
Mon, Apr 6	Ezra & OT Authority	S 198-207	Reading HW	Ezra
Wed, Apr 8	Nehemiah & Leadership	<i>Nehemiah 13</i>		Nehemiah
<i>Easter Break – no Mon class</i>				
Wed, Apr 15	Postexilic Prophets	K 175-178		Haggai., Zech., Mal.
Mon, Apr 20	Wisdom: Proverbs & Ecclesiastes	K 151-162	Reading HW	Proverbs & Ecclesiastes
Wed, Apr 22	Wisdom: Job	<i>Job 1-6</i>		Job
Mon, Apr 27	Wisdom: Songs	<i>1 Sam 2 & Luke 2</i>	Reading HW	Psalms & Song of Songs
Wed, Apr 29	The OT in the NT	K 179-194		Micah
Final Examination Wednesday, May 6, 10:30am-1:00pm				