

Old Testament History and Religion (with Travel to Israel)
BIB 1001

Point Loma Nazarene University
Spring 2020
Tues. 5:45-7:15pm

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Office Hours: See schedule on door

“Tell me a fact, and I will learn; tell me the truth, and I will believe; but tell me a *story*, and it will live in my heart forever.”¹

“You think you know a story, but you only know how it ends.”²

Course Description and Purpose

This course has two dimensions: the introduction to the Old Testament and the study of the Bible in its lands and contexts through travel to Israel and Palestine.

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.

Additionally, this course is a study and travel experience of the Holy Land (the region around and including modern Israel and Palestine), with special attention to its importance as the ancient context of the biblical writings. The modern area of Israel and Palestine is the sacred land for three major religious traditions, and this region has been the setting for defining events in religious history. But it is also the central context for much of the biblical literature. This course includes a study of the region, geography, history, and culture of the Holy Land (especially in its ancient periods), with attention to how such study contributes to the interpretation of biblical texts. Attention will also be given to the dynamics of modern-day Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Course Learning Outcomes (School of Theology and Christian Ministry)

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,

¹ Fox promo for 2002 World Series.

² Opening of the Showtime series, “The Tudors.”

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

The study abroad component of this course adds several other learning elements to the course:

1) Sites- The primary unique outcome will be that students will visit important historical and archaeological sites related to ancient Israel, early Christianity, and the origins of the biblical writings, gaining direct and primary knowledge of these sites and how they relate to scripture and faith.

2) Biblical Context- Related to #1, the site visits will allow for new dimensions of understanding concerning the context of biblical references, practices, locations, historical events, and customs.

3) Cultural and Faith Awareness- Students will engage local Israeli and Palestinian (Jewish, Christian, and Muslim) culture in the cities and sites visited, providing a broader view of the world, an appreciation of differences in cultural practices and assumptions, and an understanding of how Christians (and people of other faiths) practice their belief in diverse contexts. This dimension will include particular engagement with the stresses and issues of the modern Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as the contested nature of many historical sites associated with Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

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.

Course Texts

1. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*(NRSV). Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
2. Brad E. Kelle, *Telling the Old Testament Story: God's Mission and God's People*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017.
3. Sami Adwan, Dan Bar-On, and Eyan Naveh, *Side By Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*. Beit Jalah: Peace Research Institute in the Middle East, 2012.

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation and Attendance: In this abbreviated journey through the study of the Holy Land and biblical texts, class attendance is a necessity for optimum academic achievement. *In order to participate in and receive credit for this course, the student must participate in the trip to Israel at the end of the course. If the student decides not to participate in that trip, she or he must drop this course.*

If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings (more than ONE [1] class), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (more than TWO [2] classes), 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. 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.

2. Readings: Students should carefully read the assigned materials so that they can actively participate in discussions in class. *Please bring your New Interpreter's Study Bible to each class session.*

3. Celebrations of Learning (a.k.a. Reading Quizzes): There will be several such celebrations (often called, erroneously, "quizzes" or "exams") that cover various reading assignments from the Bible and textbooks. The dates of the quizzes are listed on the course schedule (they occur almost each week).

4. Reading Summaries of Side By Side: Throughout the semester, each student will submit written summaries of their readings in *Side By Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*. These will be used for class discussion.

Instructions: For each assigned reading portion (see course schedule), each student should type out a 300-word summary that puts in their own words the content of that reading (especially how the different perspectives in the book compare), as well as offers the student's own reflections on what is said in the textbook. ***All summaries must be typed and submitted in hard copy in class on the due date.***

Course Policies

1. Grading: The student's grade will be based on the following:

10%	Class Participation (attendance and evidence of reading)
50%	Celebrations of Learning (Reading Quizzes)
40%	Reading Summaries of <i>Side By Side</i>

<u>*Grading Scale:</u>	94-100 A	84-86 B	74-76 C	64-66 D
	90-93 A-	80-83 B-	70-73 C-60-63 D-	
	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	50s F

2. Attendance: In this abbreviated journey through the study of the Holy Land and biblical texts, class attendance is a necessity for optimum academic achievement. *In order to participate in and receive credit for this course, the student must participate in the trip to Israel at the end of the course. If the student decides not to participate in that trip, she or he must drop this course.*

If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings (more than ONE [1] class), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (more than TWO [2] classes), 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. 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.

3. Late Work Policy: In order not to be considered “late,” all assignments must be submitted **in person, in hard copy, in class** on the day listed as the due date. *NO assignment may be submitted electronically (by email, etc.) for full credit.* If the student “forgets” an assignment, he or she may submit it after class (either electronically or in hard copy) for no more than half credit. Any assignment submitted electronically (whether late or on-time) will receive no more than half credit. *No assignment will be accepted for credit of any kind more than one week after the original due date.* NOTE: Any *extra-credit assignments* must be turned in on or before the due date and will not be accepted late for any credit.

4. Inclusivity: 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. This course will strive to practice sensitivity toward and foster respect for issues of inclusivity in matters of language and conduct. Each student should seek to enrich this inclusive atmosphere in both their class contributions and personal interactions.

5. Academic Honesty: 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. Academic Accommodations: 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

1. Tues. Jan. 21

Starting Points: Introduction to the Course

Readings: None

2. Tues. Jan. 28

Introducing the Bible and Its Lands

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* pp. 2255-2260 ("Inspiration of Scripture") and pp. 2274-2279 ("Culture and Religion among the Ancient Israelites")
2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, skim ch. 1 and read ch. 2

DUE: Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned articles from *New Interpreter's Study Bible*

3. Tues. Feb. 4

The Introduction of God's Mission (Genesis 1-11)

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Genesis
2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, ch. 3
3. Genesis 1-11

DUE: Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)

4. Tues. Feb. 11

The Calling and Creation of God's People (Genesis 12-50; Exodus 1-15)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Exodus
2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, ch. 4
3. Genesis 12-22; 50; Exodus 1-14
4. *Side By Side* pp. ix-xviii & pp. 1-25

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)
2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

5. Tues. Feb. 18

The Formation of God's People (Exodus 16-Deuteronomy)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Leviticus and Deuteronomy
2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, ch. 5
3. Exodus 19-23; Deuteronomy 1-6
4. *Side By Side* pp. 108-133

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)
2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

6. Tues. Feb. 25

The Life of God's People (Part 1): In the Promised Land (Joshua—2 Kings)

The Life of God's People (Part 2): Exile and Return (1 Chronicles—Esther)

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Joshua, 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah

2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, chs. 6 & 7

3. Joshua 1 & 24; 1 Kings 11-12; 2 Kings 24-25; Ezra 1 & 8-10

DUE: Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)

7. Tues. Mar. 3

The Voices of Israel's Poets, Sages, and Prophets (Job—Song of Songs; Isaiah-Malachi)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Job, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos

2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, ch. 8

3. Job 4-5; 31; Psalm 22; 47; Isaiah 1; 49; Jeremiah 29; 31

4. *Side By Side* pp. 134-183

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)

2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

***TUES. MAR. 10: NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

8. Tues. Mar. 17

The Ending of the OT and the Ongoing Story of God

Introducing the New Testament (as the Ongoing Story of God)

Readings: 1. Watch video "New Testament Overview" at www.thebibleproject.com

2. Kelle, *Telling the OT Story*, ch. 9

DUE: Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings and video

9. Tues. Mar. 24

New Testament Gospels (Part 1)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Matthew and Mark

2. Matthew 1-10; 28; Mark 1; 11-16

3. *Side By Side* pp. 184-219

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)

2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

10. Tues. Mar. 31

New Testament Gospels (Part 2)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Luke and John
 2. Luke 1-4; 9-19; John 1-3; 13-17
 3. *Side By Side* pp. 220-267

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)
 2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

11. Tues. Apr. 7

Acts and NT Letters (Part 1)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians
 2. Acts 1-7; 13-15; Romans 1-3; 1 Corinthians 1; 12-13
 3. *Side By Side* pp. 268-289

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)
 2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

12. Tues. Apr. 14

NT Letters (Part 2)

Side By Side Book Discussion

Readings: 1. *New Interpreter's Study Bible* introduction to Ephesians, 1 Timothy, James, and Revelation
 2. Skim only: Ephesians and 1 Timothy; read: James 1-2 and Revelation 1; 4-5
 3. *Side By Side* pp. 290-343

DUE: 1. Celebration of Learning (Reading Quiz) over assigned readings (including the assigned Bible passages)
 2. Reading summary of the assigned pages in *Side By Side*

13. Tues. Apr. 21

Trip Preparation

Readings: none

DUE: none

14. Tues. Apr. 28

Trip Preparation

Readings: none

DUE: none

***Final Exams Week: Tues. Mar. 5**

(Very) Preliminary Trip Itinerary (Highly Subject to Change!)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Day 1
11.5, M | Depart USA |
| Day 2
12.5, Tu | Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to Taybeh
Overnight in Taybeh |
| Day 3
13.5, W | Theme: Beginnings—Birth & Baptism
Field trip: visit Beit El (Israeli settlement, subject to confirmation), 1 st Century House/House of the Parables, Jericho, Tel es Sultan (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27- 36), Qumran, Baptismal site—Qasr al Yehud (Mk. 1:1-12; Mt. 3: 1-4:17; Lk. 3: 1-22; 4: 1-13; Jn. 1: 1-42, Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26-38)
Overnight in Taybeh |
| Day 4
14.5, Th | Theme: Samaria & Lower Galilee
Field trip: Nablus/Shechem (John 4: 1-42), Samaria/Sebastiyya or Mt. Gerazim, Jezreel Valley (1 Kings 21), Megiddo (Rev. 16:16), Sepphoris
Overnight in Galilee |
| Day 5
15.5, F | Theme: Upper Galilee & the Golan
Field trip: Tel Hazor, Tel Dan, Banyas, Migdal Shams, Gamla (time permitting)
Overnight in Galilee |
| Day 6
16.5, Sa | Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: Capernaum, Tabgha, (John 21), Mt. of the Beatitudes, Wadi Hammam/Valley of Doves (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21), the Jordan Valley
Overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 7
17.5, Su | Theme: The Way of the Patriarchs
Field trip: Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Cave of Macphelah/Haram Ibrahimi, Palestinian refugee camp, glass factories
Overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 8
18.5, M | Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Tent of Nations, walking tour of the Old City of Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodian, Shepherd's Fields
Overnight in Bethlehem |

Day 9
19.5, Tu Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Mt. of Olives overview, Dominus Fleuit, Garden of Gethsemane, Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, 2nd Temple Model, Yad Vashem
Overnight in Bethlehem

Day 10
20.5, W Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Harem esh Sharif/ Temple Mount, Old city walking tour including the Western Wall, St. Ann's Church, Via Dolorosa, Lithostratos, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Mt. 27-28; John 20), Hezekiah's tunnel/City of David
Overnight in Bethlehem

Day 11
21.5, Th Return to USA

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan (\$1,389 based on 10 enrolled)

Day 11
21.5, Th Theme: Christian Origins in Jordan
Field trip: transfer to Allenby Bridge, enter Jordan, Bethany Beyond the Jordan/ al maghtas (baptismal site), Little Petra: al Beidha, siq al barid
Overnight in Wadi Musa/Petra.

Day 12
22.5, F Theme: The Rose Red City
Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra
Overnight in Wadi Musa

Day 13
23.5, Sa Theme: The King's Highway
Kerak Field trip: Ein Musa, the King's highway, Wadi Mujib, Shoback overview, castle
Overnight in Amman

Day 14
24.5, Su Theme: Christian Origins in Jordan
(Nymphaeum, Theatre), Jordan Museum
Field trip: Jerash, Citadel, Amman driving tour, souk al balad
Overnight in Amman

Day 15
25.5, M Return to USA