



School of Theology and Christian Ministry
 CHU 395 SEC 2: The Christian Tradition
 3 Units

Spring 2019

Instructor: Prof. Wilson Ryland	Instructor e-mail: wryland1@pointloma.edu
Phone: 619-929-4530 Office hours: By appointment	Meeting location: RLC 108
Meeting day/times: T/R 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 am -1 pm.

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A historical survey of the ideas, practices, and institutions of Christianity from the end of the New Testament period to the present, with attention to the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

The class will examine the origins and development of the church from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the present day. We will explore the major components of the Faith and how they come together to form a coherent and living Tradition. History, key people, and the rich intellectual life of the Church will get attention, but the final aim is to help the student be formed in holiness of life by the Christian Faith so they can participate in the continuation of the Tradition, the ongoing life of Christ, “the faith once delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- 1) Understand and articulate the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development.
- 2) Understand and articulate the distinctive features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.

3) Recognize the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to, and participation in, the Christian tradition through congregational life.

REQUIRED TEXTS

David Bentley Hart, Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and its Fashionable Enemies. Yale University Press, 2010.

Henry Chadwick, Augustine of Hippo: A Life, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Kenneth J. Collins, A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Jaroslav Pelikan, The Vindication of Tradition, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.

Other articles and handouts as Required

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) Personal Reflection Essay: Name the most important components (people, events, regular habits/practices, books, etc.) of your spiritual formation and describe how they shaped you. 25 points for completing it.
- 2) Participation Journal: The Christian Tradition is not just something you can know by observing from afar. It is a living Tradition; to know it you must live in it. Throughout the semester you are expected to participate weekly in worship with a local church and practice spiritual disciplines (More details on what these are and how you practice them will be given in class). You will keep a journal reflecting on your participation. As you reflect, incorporate concepts and themes from class readings and lectures. One entry per week is expected. Entries should be at least 1/2 page typed, 1 page handwritten. 100 points.
- 3) Essays on Readings: One essay will be written for each of the main books. See the schedule below for due dates. Each essay should be 2 pages. In those pages, provide a basic summary and evaluate how the person (in the case of a biography) or book dealt with the major elements of the Christian tradition that have been introduced in class. 100 points each, 400 total.
- 4) Exams: Both the Midterm and the Final will be in-class, comprehensively dealing with class lectures and readings. See the schedule below for the dates. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer questions, and 1 essay prompt. 200 points each. 400 total.
- 5) Attendance: will be taken daily. 75 points.

Extra Credit:

Write a 3-page summary and reflection on Carla Sunberg's The Cappadocian Mothers: Deification Exemplified in the Writings of Basil, Gregory, and Gregory Eugene: Pickwick, 2017. (The professor has a copy available to borrow). 50 points possible.

Attend the event "Women and Christianity: A History of Faith, Struggle and Valor" Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 pm in Crill Hall, and write a 2-page reflection. 25 points possible.

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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading Scale:

1000 - 930 = A	899-870 = B+	799-770 = C+	699-600 = D
929-900 = A-	869- 830 = B	769-730 = C	Below 599 = F
	829-800 = B-	729-700 = C-	

Notes on Grading Scale: PLNU requires a minimum of a C average to remain in academically good standing. A C grade therefore shows that you have achieved the minimal academic mastery in the assignment to remain a PLNU student making progress toward your degree. Anything below a C suggests that improvement is needed. If you fall below a C, contact me so we can work to increase your skills. Between a B and B- represents the "average" level of mastery for a PLNU student. Grades that ascend beyond a B into higher levels witness a standard deviation leap in the mastery and skills witnessed to in the assignment. Such a grading scale protects students from grade inflation, a phenomenon that hurts all students and the institution. At the same time, students compete only against levels of mastery and full accomplishment of the outcomes - not against each other. Although the occasion has never arisen, I have no philosophical objections to the whole class receiving As - if each person's work achieved an A level of achievement of course outcomes.

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.

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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.

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.

All language should strive to reflect the truth that first and foremost everyone is a child of God, created in God's image.

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

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.

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.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students are encouraged to use technology, especially the Canvas site, for learning and communication *outside* of class. In fact, students should be checking their email daily to receive timely course-related communication. *In class, however, the professor has banned the use of electronic devices, except by permission or in the case of specific need.* (Please speak to me if, for example, you require a laptop for learning purposes and we will work out an accommodation.) For the sake of optimal student learning, and knowing the distractions available with just one click, you may not use laptops, tablets, smartphones, or any other screen-device during class.

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known		January 10 Introductions and Syllabus
2 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known	January 15	January 17 Personal Reflection Essay Due
3 Origins of Tradition: How God is Known	January 22	January 24
4 Origins of Tradition: Doctrine	January 29	January 31 David Bentley Hart Essay Due

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
5 Origins of Tradition: Doctrine	February 5	February 7
6 Origins of Tradition: Ongoing Life in God	February 12	February 14 Henry Chadwick Essay Due.
7	February 19	February 21
8 The Reformation	February 26 <i>Review</i>	February 28 <i>Midterm</i>
9 Spring Break		
10 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	March 12	March 14
11 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	March 19	March Kenneth J. Collins Essay Due
12 Living Tradition: Wesley and the Methodist Movement	March 26	March 28

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
13 Living Tradition: 19th Century	April 2 (Women and Christianity Extra Credit Due)	April 4
14 Living Tradition: Today	April 9	April 11 Jaroslav Pelikan Essay Due
15 Living Tradition: Today	April 16 Participation Journal Due	April 18 Easter - No Class
16 Living Tradition: Today	April 23	April 25 - Review (Cappadocian Mothers Extra Credit Due)
Finals Week	Final = Tuesday, April 30. 10:30 am - 1:00 pm.	