

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
THE 3005 Theology and the Natural Sciences
Spring 2020

Instructor: Sam Powell

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Office hours: MWF 10:30-12:00 and Tuesday 1:00-3:00. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by sending me an email.

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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.

Learning outcomes:

- Interpret relevant biblical texts responsibly,
- Analyze the elements of the Christian doctrine of creation.
- Appraise the significance of scientific theories for Christian theology.

Required reading:

- Ilia Delio, *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*
- Malcolm Jeeves and Warren, Jr. Brown, *Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion: Illusions, Delusions, and Realities about Human Nature*
- Peter Enns, *Evolution of Adam, The: What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say about Human Origins*
- Elaine Heath, *Five Means of Grace*
- Denis Lamoureux, *Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes*
- Other articles.

Requirements:

1. Punctual attendance. You may miss up to four sessions without penalty. Every absence after the fourth will result in a deduction of 1/2% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 9 absences may result in de-enrollment.
2. Two exams. The final exam will cover the entire course. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The final exam will also have an essay on *Five Means of Grace*.
3. Discussions, in Canvas, on assigned reading.
4. An essay. Due Friday, March 27 at class time.
5. Report on two Wiley lectures (in Canvas). <https://www.pointloma.edu/2020-wiley-lectures-dr-brent-strawn>.
6. Spiritual exercises. Choose one of these two options (materials will be posted on Canvas):
 1. Guided meditation and Bible study option:
 - a. Practice the guided meditation once each week
 - b. Read one of the articles on the Bible one each week
 2. Prayer and Bible study option. Form a group (at least 2 people) and weekly
 - a. Read one of the articles on the Bible
 - b. Recite the liturgy

Grading (percentages are approximate):

Midterm exam	80
Final exam	120
Canvas discussions	22
Essay	80
Wiley lecture reports	10 (5 each)
Spiritual exercises	36 (3 points per week, 12 weeks)

PLNU 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:** 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.

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is an official mode of communication in this course.
- Computers and other electronic devices may not be used in class.
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- 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 department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

15-Jan	McGrath, c. 5	
17-Jan	McGrath, pp. 65-78	
20-Jan	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
22-Jan	McGrath, pp. 78-82	Spiritual exercise #1
24-Jan	McGrath, pp. 82-86	
27-Jan	McGrath, pp. 86-92	Spiritual exercise #2
29-Jan	McGrath (86-92 continued)	
31-Jan	McGrath, pp. 102-106	
3-Feb	McGrath, pp. 106-112	Spiritual exercise #3
5-Feb	Mcgrath, pp. 112-116	
7-Feb	McGrath (112-116 continued)	

10-Feb	Lecture	Spiritual exercise #4
12-Feb	Canvas reading and report	
14-Feb	Canvas reading and report	
17-Feb	Evolution of Adam, c. 1	Spiritual exercise #5
19-Feb	Evolution of Adam, c. 2	
21-Feb	Evolution of Adam, c. 3	
24-Feb	Evolution of Adam, c. 4	Spiritual exercise #6
26-Feb	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 2	
28-Feb	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 3	
2-Mar	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 4	
4-Mar	Lecture	
6-Mar	Midterm exam	
9-Mar	Spring break	
11-Mar	Spring break	
13-Mar	Spring break	
16-Mar	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 5	Spiritual exercise #7
18-Mar	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 6	Wiley lecture reports
20-Mar	Evolution: Scripture and Nature Say Yes, c. 7	
23-Mar	Lecture	Spiritual exercise #8
25-Mar	Lecture	
27-Mar	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 4	Essay due
30-Mar	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 5	Spiritual exercise #9
1-Apr	Lecture	
3-Apr	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 6	
6-Apr	Lecture	Spiritual exercise #10
8-Apr	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 7	
10-Apr	Easter break	
13-Apr	Easter break	
15-Apr	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 7	
17-Apr	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 8	
20-Apr	Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion, c. 9	Spiritual exercise #11
22-Apr	Lecture	
24-Apr	Care for Creation, part 1	
27-Apr	Care for Creation, part 2	Spiritual exercise #12
29-Apr	Care for Creation, part 3	
1-May	Care for Creation, part 4	
8-May	Final exam 7:30	