

Point Loma Nazarene University  
School of Theology & Christian Ministry  
Spring 2020

*Point Loma Nazarene University 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:** Theology 2050. Introduction to Christian Theology.  
T-Th, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Wesley Center Seminar Room.
- Professor:** Dr. Michael Lodahl. Office – Smee 206  
Office phone 849-2331, cell (858) 405-3184.
- Texts:** Heidt, Mari Rapela. *A Guide for Writing about Theology and Religion*  
Lodahl, Michael. *All Things Necessary to Our Salvation*  
Lodahl, *Bearing the Happy Burden of Interpretation* (essay collection)  
Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)  
Yong, Amos. *Learning Theology: Tracking the Spirit of Christian Faith*
- Objectives:** 1) To introduce students, especially theology majors, to the root convictions, methodologies and pressing concerns of classical and contemporary Christian theological reflection;
- 2) To explore the crucial doctrines of Christian faith in their complex and rich interrelations, and in relation to Christian life, practice and ministry. Doctrines to be explored in their interrelationships with one another include: divine revelation in the history of the people Israel and particularly in Jesus Christ; scriptural testimony and authority; Scripture in relation to tradition, reason and experience; the nature and attributes of God the Creator and Sustainer of all things; human beings in the image of God; human sin and divine grace; divine predestination and human agency / responsibility; Christology; ecclesiology; pneumatology; sacramental theology and eschatology;

- 3) To develop an understanding and appreciation for the distinctive emphases and contributions of the Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition, particularly in regard to the doctrine of entire sanctification; and
- 4) To become more effective communicators of theological ideas through reading and writing good theological prose.

#### Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to

- 1) explain the importance of theological reflection for the life and ministry of the Christian church;
- 2) distinguish among the various sub-disciplines of theology and their corresponding emphases and rationales;
- 3) describe the deep interconnections among the doctrines of Christian faith – especially God, creation, Christology, humanity, and sin; and
- 4) appreciate the rich historical heritage of theological reflection, especially as received and enriched by the Wesleyan theological tradition;
- 5) demonstrate growth and improvement in writing skills pertinent to academic theological studies.

#### Course Requirements:

- 1) Faithful attendance to class and reading of assigned materials. You will be held responsible for the assigned reading each day you step into the classroom. On many if not all days, a brief quiz will be administered that addresses main points in the reading for the day. *It is your responsibility to stay current in the reading.* (CLOs 1-4)
- 2) Close attention to Mari Rapela Heidt's *A Guide for Writing about Theology and Religion*. You will be held accountable for reading and internalizing Heidt's very helpful book by sending to your professor, via e-mail attachment, a reading report for each chapter as specified in this syllabus's Course Calendar. In that report, you will inform the professor regarding the number of pages you read carefully, and then will list a minimum of three important points or suggestions you learned from the specified chapter. (CLO 5)
- 3) Spiritual autobiography paper, 5-6 pages in length, that introduces your life, significant experiences, sense of calling, particular interests, etc., to your professor. I invite and encourage you to be yourself in this paper. I hope you will feel free also to mention or discuss any theological / spiritual issue or question that is troubling you. This paper is for the purposes of my getting to know you better – and also to give you an early indication of possible opportunities for improvement in your writing. **This paper is due as hard copy at the beginning of class, Tuesday, February 4.** (CLO 1)

- 4) A reflection paper, 5-6 pages in length, on the interrelationship between the doctrine of God the Creator and the doctrines implied in theological anthropology. This paper will incorporate Scripture, class lectures and discussions, as well as the relevant reading from assigned texts. (CLOs 2, 3, 5) This paper is due as a hard copy on Tuesday, March 17, at the beginning of class.
- 5) Research term paper, 10-12 pages (not counting the *title page*, which is required, with a suitable and at least minimally creative title), with a minimum of 12 bibliographical resources (books and journal articles) and 300 pages of reading. This paper will address a particular doctrine, theologian, or theological controversy that is relevant to the subject material of the present course. ***All term paper topics are to receive approval from the professor and should be written (and will be evaluated) on the basis of Heidt's excellent instructions.*** This paper is due on Friday, April 24, no later than 11:59 p.m. as an email attachment. (CLOs 3, 4, 5)
- 6) Two examinations as scheduled in Course Calendar. The second exam is the final examination and will be comprehensive. (CLOs 1-3)

#### Course Grade:

Your grade will be calculated on the basis of attendance / participation, including quizzes and responses to Heidt's book (16%); spiritual autobiography paper (10%); paper on the doctrines of God and humanity (theological anthropology) (16%); research term paper (22%); midterm examination (16%); and final exam (20%).

#### On Attendance

Each class day attendance is worth 5 quiz points; quizzes will vary in point total, roughly anywhere between another 5 and 15 points on any given day. Extra-credit points are added to the attendance / participation / quizzes category.

#### On Punctuality

On any writing assignment, if it is handed in later in the day than at classtime of the due date, it will receive a 5 point reduction (out of a scale of 100). For each day the paper is late thereafter, it will receive another 7 point reduction.

#### On Writing:

I cannot emphasize enough that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a *highly* critical role in my evaluation of all your papers – and that you are *strongly encouraged* to solicit the benefits of at least one competent proofreader for your assigned papers.

Additionally, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry at PLNU is committed to the equality of women and men, including in the exercise of the gifts and graces of ministry in local church congregations. Recognizing that people have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women and other often

marginalized people, the SOTCM strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and in written work.

#### **Other Matters:**

##### **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, or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's efforts. 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](mailto: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 (please note that in summer school, this means two days' worth of classes!), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (our four day's worth of 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.

##### **Semester Academic Work Policy:**

Please note that when the semester ends, so do all opportunities to work to improve your grade. No last-minute or after-the-fact appeals for extra credit will be even briefly considered.

All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of class.

The ASC will contact professors with suggested classroom needs and accommodations. Approved documentation must be on file in the ASC prior to the start of the semester.  
Course Calendar:

Jan 16 – Introduction of the course and of ourselves. 1 Corinthians 8.

21 – Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, prefaces (x-xvi), chapter 1 (1-20)

23 – Yong, *Learning Theology* preface, 1-11, 89-98

***(Saturday, 1/25, response to Heidt, c. 1, due no later than 5 p.m.  
For 15 points attendance / participation)***

28 – Migliore, 21-45; Yong 15-25

30 – Yong 53-64; Lodahl essay excerpt; essays by LDS theologian Robert Millet. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Church of the Nazarene theological dialogue comes to our class!

***Thursday evening: extra-credit possibility –  
Mormon-Nazarene panel discussion. More details to come.***

***(Saturday, 2/1, response to Heidt, c. 2, due no later than 5 p.m.)***

Feb 4 – Migliore, 46-65. ***Spiritual autobiography paper due at class time.***

6 – Yong, 27-51

***(Saturday, 2/8, response to Heidt, c. 3, due no later than 5 p.m.)***

Feb 11 – Lodahl, *All Things Necessary to Our Salvation*, Part I

13 – Lodahl, *All Things* Part II

***Big extra-credit opportunities this week with the Wiley Lectures in Theology Series.*** You are encouraged to attend as many of these lectures and events as your schedule permits. Extra credit assignments always involve, in addition to attendance, a summary / reflection / response paper, 2 – 2½ pages in length, for each lecture you attend. There is a ***maximum possibility of 25 points for each lecture or event.***

12 – *Extra Credit Offer:* 2020 H. Orton Wiley Lecture Series:

Brent Strawn 11-11:50 and 1:30 – 2:20, Crill Auditorium

13 – *Extra Credit Offer:* Strawn 9:30 – 10:20, Crill Auditorium

14 – *Extra Credit Offer:* Strawn 8:30 – 9:20, final Wiley lecture

18 – Lodahl, 23-45

20 – Migliore, 66-95

25 – Migliore, 66-95, cont'd.

27 – Migliore, 96-120

Mar 3 – Migliore 121-142; Lodahl 46-59  
5 – Midterm essay exam.

### Spring Break

17 – Yong 67-77, Lodahl 61-70. *Reflection paper due at beginning of classtime.*  
19 – Migliore 143-167.

24 – Migliore 168-204. *Term research paper topic due at classtime. This includes proposed title, paper outline, and working bibliography all in proper format. (25 points in attendance / participation category.)*

26 – Migliore 168-204, cont'd.  
*(Saturday, 2/28, response to Heidt, cc. 4-5, due no later than 5 p.m. 15 points)*

31 – Migliore 205-231.  
April 2 – Migliore 232-258, Yong 101-110.

7 – Migliore 259-285, Yong 77-88

9 – Easter Break: no class session. God has raised Jesus from death!  
*(Saturday, 4/11, response to Heidt, c. 6, due no later than 5 p.m. 15 points)*

14 – Migliore 286-300

16 – Migliore 300-313, Lodahl 71-75

*(Saturday, 4/18, response to Heidt, Appendix A, due by 5 p.m. 15 points)*

21 – Migliore 314-339

23 – Migliore 339-346, Lodahl excerpt from *Claiming Abraham*

*24 – Research term paper due no later than 5 p.m. via email attachment.*

28 – Migliore 347-367

30 – Migliore 367-372; Lodahl 93-101

### ***FINAL EXAM***

Tuesday, 1:30 – 4 p.m.