

	School of Theology and Christian Ministry
	BIB 1002.6 New Testament History & Religion 3 Units
Spring 2022	

Meeting days: Tues & Thurs	Instructor title and name: Dr Stephanie Smith Matthews
Meeting times: 11:00 - 12:15 pm	Phone: 619-849-2594
Meeting location: RLC 101	Email: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Thurs, May 5, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm	Office location and hours: Email for appointment via Zoom or outdoors (usually patio outside Smee 100)

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.

Foundational Explorations Mission

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 culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PLNU Catalogue Description: Within the context of Christian origins, an overview of the canonical literature of the New Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1) Identify the historical contexts of the New Testament.
- 2) Articulate the unity of the New 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 New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

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., *The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV w/Apocrypha)*, (5th ed; Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN 0790276072
2. Additional resources available via the course Canvas page.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Grade Scale				
A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Assignment distribution by percentage:

- 35% Readings and Weekly Check-ins
- 25% Midterm Exam
- 15% Group Work
- 25% Final Project

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

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.

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 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.

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 class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of 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.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#)

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Specific assignment information for weekly homework, as well as instructions and rubrics, will be posted to Canvas.

Readings (or viewings) & Weekly Homework: The NT is the primary text for this course. *Please have your Bible at hand in 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 weekly homework and/or quizzes over the assigned reading material (see below).* These will be due on **Tuesdays**. Students completing 11 assignments may drop their lowest score; students completing 12 may drop the two lowest scores. **Thursdays** we will often have break-out discussions over the course material for that day, read from passages in the New Testament, and practice for your final project.

Mid-Term exam: The midterm exam will cover various reading assignments and associated class lectures through the first quad. A study guide will be provided. It will be timed and open book/open note.

Group Work: Each student will be assigned to a small group to facilitate discussion and processing of course material. Occasionally you will be asked to submit a short assignment

which you may begin in class and finish outside of class if necessary. Any out of class group work should be able to be completed remotely.

Final project: As the culmination to the semester, there will be a final project due (submitted online) during our final exam period. We will practice these skills in class, especially during the second half of the semester. You will have a choice of format (paper, video, visual presentation, etc.) A complete instruction sheet and rubric will be provided. Briefly, you will be asked to: Choose any passage (about 10 verses) from the New Testament and interpret it in two ways:

1) A historical interpretation: what do we know about the original audience for this passage? How do scholarly sources help us understand this passage in its own literary context, its cultural context, and in light of the whole of the Bible?

2) A contemporary application for today: how might people today interpret this passage from their own context? How might they compare it to their situation? What message from God (hope, guidance, peace, etc.) might they find as they reinterpret this passage for their time?