

	School of Theology & Christian Ministry
	Theology 3005: Christianity & the Natural Sciences 3 units
Spring 2022	

Meeting days: T-Th	Instructor: Michael Lodahl, Ph.D
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45 p.m.	Phone: 858 405 3184
Meeting location: Taylor 106	Email: mlodahl@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: May 3, 1:30-4 p.m.	Office location and hours: by appointment

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

Catalogue description: This course explores central Christian convictions, e.g., the doctrines of creation, providence, the incarnation and the resurrection of the body, in careful and respectful dialogue with the natural sciences, especially cosmology and biological evolution.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to

- Interpret relevant biblical texts carefully and responsibly;
- Analyze the critical elements in the Christian doctrine of creation; and
- Appraise the significance of scientific discoveries, concepts, and theories for Christian theology

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Falk, Darrel, and Wood, Todd Charles. *The Fool and the Heretic: How Two Scientists Moved beyond Labels to a Christian Dialogue about Creation and Evolution*

Lodahl, Michael. *All Things Necessary to Our Salvation: The Hermeneutical and Theological Implications of the Article on the Holy Scriptures in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*

Moritz, Joshua. *Science and Religion: Beyond Warfare and Toward Understanding*

Venema, Dennis R., and McKnight, Scot. *Adam and the Genome: Reading Scripture after Genetic Science*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Regular, faithful attendance to class and active participation in class discussions.
 - 2) Six brief (2-3 page, double-spaced) reflection papers during the semester as scheduled. These papers will give you the opportunity to reflect upon any idea, concept, or controversy encountered in class reading or during class discussion. These papers should demonstrate active engagement with the pertinent reading (either by quotation or by meaningful allusion) and your own thinking in relationship / response to the material. In each paper the student should strive to bring the ideas of the natural sciences as discussed in the assigned reading and in class into creative conversation with pertinent ideas / doctrines of the Christian faith. These papers should be college-level examples of good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and reflection. Generally, your professor will operate on the general lines of roughly 70% given to issues of content and 30% to issues of proper, intelligible writing.
- The PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the full equality and dignity of all people. Recognizing that human beings have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women and other marginalized peoples, the department strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Determined on the basis of attendance / participation (25%) and the six reflection papers (12.5% each, 75% total).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Final letter grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-93	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

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

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

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.

Course Calendar

Jan 13 – Introduction to this course. *I will provide a series of lecture videos for this opening session.*

Jan 18 – Karen Strand Winslow, “The Earth is Not a Planet.”

Jan 20 – *The Fool and the Heretic*, 9-50

Jan 25 – *The Fool and the Heretic*, 51-99

Jan 27 – *The Fool and the Heretic*, 101-149

Feb 1 – *The Fool and the Heretic*, 151-196

Feb 3 – excerpt from Steven Peck, *Evolving Faith: Wanderings of a Mormon Biologist*

- ***First reflection paper due by Sunday, February 6, at midnight.***

Feb 8 – Lodahl, *All Things Necessary*, 7-24

Feb 10 – *All Things Necessary*, 24-46

Feb 15 – *All Things Necessary*, 56-50; Lodahl essay, “What Things are Necessary?”

Feb 17 – Moritz, *Science and Religion*, 7-37

- *Second reflection paper due by Sunday, Feb. 20, midnight.*

Feb 22 – *Science and Religion*, 39-57

Feb 24 – *Science and Religion*, 58-83

Mar 1 – *Science and Religion*, 84-112

Mar 3 – *Science and Religion*, 112-138

Spring Break

- *Third reflection paper due by Sunday, Mar. 13, by midnight.*

Mar 15 – *Science and Religion*, 139-176

Mar 17 – *Science and Religion*, 177-205 ... *perfect topic and timing for big extra credit!* –

2022 Wiley Lecture Series (if Covid doesn't mess this up!!!)

Willie James Jennings, Wiley Lecturer – Attend any or all of his four lectures. For each one you attend, write a 2 – 2 ½ page summary / response / reflection paper. Each one will be worth a maximum possible of 25 e.c. points in the attendance / participation category. They will be graded; 25 points is not automatic, but is the maximum possible. It would be optimal for you to try to respond to Jennings's lectures from the perspective and concerns of our course, to the extent you can do this. All lectures will occur in Crill Auditorium. Here are the days and times for the lectures:

Monday, March 21, 11 – 11:50

Monday, March 21, 1:30 – 2:20

Tuesday, March 22, 9:30 – 10:20

Wednesday, March 23, 8:30 – 9:20

Mar 22 – *Adam and the Genome*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Mar 24 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 2

Mar 29 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 3

Mar 31 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 4

- *Fourth reflection paper due on Sunday, April 3, midnight.*

April 5 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 5

April 7 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 6

April 12 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 7

April 14 – *Adam and the Genome*, Chapter 8

- ***Fifth reflection paper due on Sunday, April 17, midnight.***

April 19 – *Science and Religion*, 205-212; Lodahl essay on Wesley and the natural world

April 21 – *Science and Religion*, 213-237

April 26 – *Science and Religion*, 238-272

April 28 – *Science and Religion*, 273-289; excerpt from Lodahl, *God of Nature and of Grace*

- ***Sixth reflection paper due by Sunday, May 1, midnight.***

Final Exam Session: A Science and Religion Questionnaire

Tuesday, May 3, 1:30 p.m.