

	<p>Department/School Name School of Theology & Christian Ministry</p> <p>Course Number and Name CHU 3040 Women in the Christian Tradition</p> <p>Number of Units 3</p>
Spring 2025	

Meeting days: Mon, Wed, Fri	Instructor title and name: Dr Stephanie Smith Matthews
Meeting times: 11:00-11:55	Phone: 619-849-2950
Meeting location: Taylor 314	Email: smatthew@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Mon, May 5, 10:30-1:00	Office location and hours: Smee 211 email for appointment
Additional info:	Additional info:

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.

Course Description

A historical survey addressing the ideas, practices, and institutions of Christianity emphasizing the contribution and challenges of women as disciples, preachers, martyrs, writers and community leaders from the end of the New Testament period to the present with attention to the Wesleyan and American Holiness traditions.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Examine the varied roles women have played in the biblical testimony and church to God's saving activity in the world;
2. Identify the ways women have often been marginalized or measured by differing cultural and gender norms in Scripture and church tradition;
3. Express a biblical and theological position of the roles of men and women in family, church and society; and
4. Research an individual woman or group of women's contribution to the Christian church through a combination of academic and contextual research.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

1. Elaine A. Heath, *Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2017), ISBN 9781791027568
2. Rebecca Moore, *Women in Christian Traditions* (New York: New York University Press, 2015), ISBN 9781479821754 or 9781479838431
3. Loida I. Martell-Otero, Zaida Maldonado Pérez, and Elizabeth Conde-Frazier (preface by Serene Jones), *Latina Evangélicas* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2013), ISBN 9781608991365 or 9781621895091.
4. Amy Oden, *In Her Words: Women's Writings in the History of Christian Thought* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1994), ISBN 9780687459728.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Attendance & In-Class participation (10%): See the PLNU attendance policy below. Class participation encompasses being prepared to discuss assigned reading, sharing insights, responding to other students, asking and attempting to answer relevant questions, and discussing the issues brought up in class. Opportunities will be given to participate in pairs and small groups. Students who find speaking in front of large groups challenging are encouraged to come prepared with a written question or comment to share when called on.

Weekly Homework (40%): Each week will feature one of the following assignments linked to assigned readings and videos. They are intended to both give you credit for your reading and to guide your preparation for class sessions. Diligence in these regular assignments will prepare you well for the Christian traditions exam. All Weekly Homework is posted to Canvas.

Means of Grace reflection paper (15%): Based on the reading of the book, *The Means of Grace*, and the spiritual formational practices included in this class, write a 2-3-page reflection paper addressing each of these three topics:

- 1) What are the means of grace and why do they matter to Christian life and faith?
- 2) Describe your engagement with at least one of the 5 means of grace; What specifically did you do, observe, feel, experience, wonder about afterwards?
- 3) How might the means of grace become or continue to impact your faith, decision-making and way of life when you leave the university classroom?

Proper citations are required to receive credit for this assignment. MLA, APA, or Chicago format is acceptable. Consult the appropriate citation guide: <http://libguides.pointloma.edu/CitationHelp>. Late submissions will receive a full letter grade reduction per day (24 hours from the start of class).

Christian Traditions exam (15%): This comprehensive in-class exam will cover CLO's 1-3 outlined above. It will consist of matching, multiple choice, a time line fill-in, and short answer questions. A study guide will be posted to Canvas. You will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the basic historical movements and figures as outlined in Moore and the videos, and doctrinal concepts from Martell-Otero, et. al. To study for the exam, review your class preparation assignments and notes you have taken from class lectures and discussions. Be prepared to answer respond to the statements of CLO's 1-3 in a short answer (1-2 paragraph) format and to incorporate primary sources from Ogden as supporting evidence where appropriate.

Pilgrimage final project & presentation (20%): Choose a woman rooted in the Christian tradition and research her life, struggles and faith. Your initial research will come from academic research, when available, or oral history interviews. Then you "go on the move" to research her. You can go somewhere, (i.e., to Tijuana or Baja in search of the virgin of Guadalupe, or to Santa Clara, St. Helena, or Santa Barbara to research the women whose lives are memorialized all over California), or you can walk across your church to conduct an oral history with someone you don't know but admire (e.g., the only woman on the church board or staff, or a lay matriarch of the church). Instructions and rubric are posted to Canvas.

Projects are due by the end of day on our last regular class meeting (Fri, May 2). Presentations will occur during our assigned final time (Mon, May 5, 10:20 am - 1:00 pm).

Assessment and Grading

Assignment distribution by percentage:

- 40% Readings and Weekly Homework
- 15% Means of Grace Essay
- 15% Exam
- 10% Attendance and Participation
- 20% Final Pilgrimage Project

Grades will be based on the following:

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	

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 [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Women in the Christian Tradition, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include gender inequity and the nature of power in the Church. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Women in the Christian Tradition, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include abuse of power including by those in religious leadership. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of biblical studies, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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 you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

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.

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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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. Thus, terms like "man" or "mankind" or the pronoun "he," should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead "people," "humanity," "humans," and "he or she" better acknowledge women as full persons.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be

aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Course Modality Definitions

- Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.
 - Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
- Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
- In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered asynchronously and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu