

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
BIB 102 New Testament History and Religion
Fall 2015

Instructor: Sam Powell

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Office hours: MWF MWF 2:30-3:30 and TTH 9:30-11:00. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

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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: Students will

- Identify the historical context of the New Testament;
- Articulate the unity of the New Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon;
- 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
- Articulate the basic content of the books of the New Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

REQUIRED READING:

- The New Testament in a modern translation. Preferred versions include the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.
- Carter, Warren. *The Roman Empire and the New Testament*
- France, R.T. *Women in the Church’s Ministry*.
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher’s Guide to Understanding the End Times*
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher’s Guide to Understanding Scripture*
- Other articles as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. 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. Four responses to assigned readings. Each response must be completed before class on the assigned day and cannot be submitted late. Each response should be around 300 words and briefly 1) summarize the most important ideas of these articles and 2) describe the points that you found to be either most interesting or puzzling. Submit these responses on Canvas by clicking on “assignments,” choosing the appropriate assignment, and typing your response directly into Canvas’ text box.

3. Essay on R.T. France’s book. France argues that it is legitimate for women to be formally ordained as pastors and priests even though traditionally churches have not ordained women and today most do not. One argument that he presents to support his thesis is that the social condition of women has changed in the modern world (e.g., women in our culture receive education) and that society’s opinions about women have changed (e.g., it is now generally accepted that women like men possess leadership skills that can be developed). In other words, in some circumstances Christians should leave behind the literal teaching of the Bible. These circumstances include times when a change in social conditions warrants a change in Christian belief and practice.

Your assignment is to analyze and evaluate France's thesis. In a two page (double spaced) essay, tell me whether or not you agree with France's thesis. Is he right? wrong? right in some cases but wrong in other cases? Discuss the notion that Christian practice should change in response to social changes—Are there issues where Christian practice should change? Issues where Christian practice should not change? How should we make these decisions? Be sure to explain your reasoning clearly.

The essay is due November 4 at the beginning of class.

4. A report on the Wiley lectures. The four Wiley lectures will be held October 14-16. You are required to attend at least two of the lectures and submit a one page summary of each lecture. The reports are due December 7 and should be submitted onto Canvas/assignments. If your schedule prevents you from attending the lectures, they will be available on podcast about one month after they are delivered. Here is a link with information about the lectures:

<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/schools-departments/school-theology-christian-ministry/h-orton-wiley-lecture-series>

5. Exams: There will be a midterm exam on October 21 and a final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

6. Three online discussions. There will be a stipulated topic for each discussion.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Essay on France	80 points
Final exam	150
Mid-term exam	60
Four journal entries	32 (8 points each)
Wiley lecture reports	10 (5 points each)
Online discussions	20 (5 points each)

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is the official mode of communication in this course.
- The essay on France's book and other assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated due dates. Don't just assume that you can turn work in late. Contact me immediately if an emergency will not allow you to turn in an assignment on time.
- 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.
- Academic accommodations: Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact me with recommendations for appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.
- Academic honesty. Students who present the work of others as if their own commit plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the words or ideas of others without citation. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Cheating on an exam will result in loss of all points for the exam. Additionally, plagiarism and cheating will result in a written report being filed with vice-provost for academic administration.