

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY  
CHU 395 The Christian Tradition  
Fall 2015

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Office hours: 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 be able to

- Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development.
- Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.
- Appreciate the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life.

REQUIRED READING:

- Kenneth Collins, *A Real Christian*.
- William Placher, *History of Christian Theology*
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the Sacraments*
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the Trinity*
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to the End Times*
- 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 3 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Exams: There will be two exams: one on October 13 and the final exam on December 17. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions. Because lectures and discussions will not systematically cover all of the material addressed in Placher's book, I will create a discussion board on eclass where students can post questions and comments about Placher's book with my responses.

3. A report on the doctrine of your church. You will write a four page report in which you describe the main points of your church's doctrine, including

- a statement about where that doctrine is found (a creed? a book of discipline? some other document?);
- a discussion of your church's view of baptism (What kind of instruction is provided? How does your church understand the meaning of baptism? Does it permit or encourage

- rebaptism?);
- a discussion of your church's view of the Lord's Supper (What is its significance? How is it practiced? How often is it practiced?);
- a discussion of your church's eschatology;
- a discussion of your church's authority structure: Who ordains? Who decides matters of doctrine and practice?
- a discussion of your church's stand on women in ministry;
- and finally, a discussion of your church in the Christian tradition—with which branch of the tradition does it identify?

4. Reports on two Wiley lectures. The four Wiley lectures will be held October 12-14. 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 1 and should be submitted onto Canvas. 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. Canvas reports on current issues. You will read three essays related to current issues in American Christianity and then submit a response via Canvas.

GRADING (percentages are approximate):

Report on doctrine	30%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Wiley reports	2% (1% for each)
3 Canvas reports	18% total (6% each)

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is the official mode of communication in this course.
- 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.