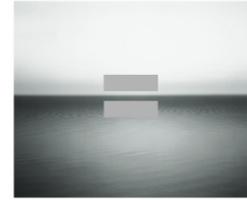


Fall 2012  
Course

PSALM  
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To the chief Musician  
A Song upon  
GOD is our refuge and  
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## THEOLOGY, CULTURE and U2

*"God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house... God is in the silence of a mother who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives... God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war...."*

Bono, lead singer of U2  
National Prayer Breakfast, Washington D.C., February 02, 2006

### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

*"This class helped all of us step outside of our American mind set and be able to see through the eyes of the impoverished in Africa, leaders and politicians from around the globe, and an unassuming Irish rock band with more questions than answers. The music is great but the message is greater! WARNING: This class may turn you into a fanatic."*

*"The U2 class challenged me to think outside the box. I began to think about life and spirituality in a new way. I even look at Bible stories in a different way now. The awesome thing about this is that I didn't learn it at Sunday School or even at a Bible study, which are definitely both great things, but I learned it from an Irish rock band."*

*"Who knew that some Irish guys who sing about sex, drugs, and rock and roll would turn out to be some of my favorite theologians?"*

The rock band U2 has delivered a consistent, yet subtle, message of biblical faith and social justice since its 1980 debut album. The band members, heavily influenced in their early years by living in war-torn Ireland and belonging to a Christian community called Shalom, fill their songs with rich biblical imagery. Lead singer Bono has become a political activist addressing global issues of poverty, inequity, fair trade, AIDS, and debt relief. In this course students will explore how U2's music, message and theology interact with culture to create a unique yet sometimes controversial expression of Christian faith. The course will critically examine the works of U2 and will challenge students to think theologically about current cultural issues.

**Fresno Pacific University, Biblical and Religious Studies Division**  
**MIN 340: Theology, Culture and U2 (2 units)**  
**Fall 2012, Tuesdays, 3:30-5:05      Instructor: Tim Neufeld, 453-2093**