



**PREA 6219/6319 Preaching from the Gospels  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Pastoral Ministries Division  
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**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**We are here not merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.**

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Servant Leadership**.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

This course addresses curriculum competency of Biblical Exposition.

### **Course Description**

This course addresses preaching approaches to the various themes and emphases of the four gospels. Special attention is given to sermonic developments of events in the life of Christ, the teachings of Christ, miracle passages, and parables. Students also will be exposed to sermonic treatments of key editorial comments, movements, dialogues, and reactions to the ministry of Christ. Limited attention is dedicated to critical matters. Prerequisites: PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible; BSHM5310 Biblical Hermeneutics; NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- 1.** Know some key principles of hermeneutics as well as the particular hermeneutical issues related to Gospel literature;
- 2.** Know some important matters of background information regarding the Gospels;
- 3.** Value the importance of preaching from Gospel literature;
- 4.** Apply the principles of Gospel interpretation in order to prepare and to deliver effective expository sermons from this particular genre.
- 5.** Produce a gospel notebook, two or three book reviews (one shared in a class presentation format and the other one turned into the instructor), an analytic presentation of a contemporary preacher and his technique of preaching from the gospels, and a major assignment comprised of a sermon series and two sermon briefs with one of the sermon briefs being developed into a full sermon manuscript for class presentation.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course will be composed of class lectures and discussions led by the professor, personal research and sermon development, small group discussions, and class presentations by the students.

## **Textbooks**

2 Hour students must read two of the following books (one from each category). 3 Hour students will read three of the following:

### Category 1: New Testament, Gospels, and Jesus

Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*, 2d ed. Nashville: B&H, 2009.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

### Category 2: Exposition and Preaching

Bryson, Harold T. *Expository Preaching: the Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.

Paul, Ian, and David Wenham. *Preaching the New Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.

Smith, Steven. *Recapturing the Voice of God: Shaping Sermons Like Scripture*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015.

**\*You are to select and read a book that you have not previously read.**

## **Supplemental Textbooks**

### *Category 1: New Testament, Gospels, and Jesus*

- *Jesus According to Scripture* by Darrell L. Bock
- *The Parables of Jesus* by Arland J. Hultgren
- *Reading the Gospels Wisely* by Jonathan T. Pennington
- *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ* By Robert Stein
- *New Testament History* by Ben Witherington III

### *Category 2: Preaching Helps*

- *Preaching the Parables* by Craig Blomberg
- *The Shape of Preaching: Theory and Practice in Sermon Design* by Dennis M. Cahill
- *Christ-Centered Preaching* by Bryan Chapell
- *The Parables of Jesus* by Terry Johnson

1. BOOK REVIEWS. Students will complete readings of two/three of the assigned textbooks (one from each category). Each book review will have (1) a biographical sketch of the author(s); (2) a summary of the book's contents; (3) an evaluation of the book, including both positive and negative criticisms of the book's contents; and (4) a description of the book's contributions to the student's present ministry. The book reviews should be 2-3 single spaced pages. The books and reviews will be discussed in class.

2. PREACHER PRESENTATION. The student will analyze a contemporary preacher and his sermons on the four gospels in the form of published (written, audio, or video) messages of at least three sermons. Possible names for consideration are listed but students could analyze another contemporary preacher if approved by professor.

John R. W. Stott	Warren Wiersbe	Haddon Robinson	David Uth
John MacArthur	Johnny Hunt	Ted Traylor	Tony Evans
James Merritt	Charles Stanley	Don Wilton	Tim Keller
John Piper	Steve Gaines	Robert Smith	Ligon Duncan
Charles Stanley	Bill Hybels	Millard Erickson	Lee Eclov
Rick Warren	Joel Gregory	Matt Chandler	John Ortberg
Gardner Taylor	Andy Stanley	Bryan Loritts	Mark Buchanan
Adrian Rogers	Calvin Miller	James MacDonald	H. B. Charles, Jr.
James Earl Massey	David Jeremiah	Chuck Swindoll	Billy Graham
Jim Shaddix	David Platt	Ed Young, Jr.	Francis Chan
Chip Henderson	Jerry Vines	Voddie Baucham	J. D. Greear

The student may instead choose to analyze how the same gospel narrative text is treated or used in one sermon each by any three of the above preachers. This analysis will be presented by the student in-class and should be approximately 20-30 minutes total. The student may distribute notes, outlines, use PowerPoint, media, etc. After the presentation the student's work product will be deposited into the course Blackboard and then made available for the other students. To avoid duplication the student will notify the instructor of his choices. In the case of duplication it will be "first come, first served."

3. GOSPEL SUMMARIES: The student will write a summary overview of **each of the four gospels**. Each summary outline should be in bullet note form and must include the name of the gospel, name of the writer, date when written, place where written, recipients, occasion/purpose, theological contributions, outline of the gospel, and sources consulted. The idea is to sift through the various views and discussions about the various options before determining your personal conclusions regarding the matter. You can use bullet notes to highlight various views and document the sources using parenthetical or footnote references.

4. MAJOR PROJECT: Each student will complete the following assignment.

- a. Students seeking 2 credit hours must develop a **6-8** week series for preaching through a particular portion of Gospel literature.
- b. Students seeking 3 credit hours must develop a **10-12** week series for preaching through a particular portion of Gospel literature.
  - Sermon series examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - *The Sermon on the Mount*

- *Hard Sayings from Christ*
  - *The Birth Narratives*
  - *The Encounters with Christ* (Nicodemus, Woman at Well, etc.)
  - *The Farewell Discourse*
  - *The Passion Week*
  - *The Parables of Jesus*
  - *The I Am Statements*
  - *The Miracles of Jesus*
  - *The Signs in John*
  - *An Overview of Mark*
  - *The Kingdom of God and Jesus*
- These sermon outlines should cover sermons that will be preached in the future, NOT sermons the student has already preached. The student must submit: (1) a one page overview of the series, including texts, titles, and summaries of each sermon; (2) a completed **Sermon Brief** for each sermon to be preached (the form of Sermon Brief is provided in the syllabus); (3) study notes (exegetical and homiletical) from one of the sermons in the series; and (4) a 1-2 page single-spaced Selected Bibliography of resources useful for the preacher as he implements this preaching plan in his ministry.

## 5. PREACHING IN CLASS:

### **TYPES OF MESSAGES TO BE PREACHED:**

These types of biblical messages will be acceptable (e.g. deductive, inductive, bi-ductive; dramatic monologue, narrative, etc.). However, the message should reflect a thorough exegesis of the biblical passage, hermeneutical accuracy, and exhibit the very best use of the principles of effective sermon development and delivery appropriate to the sermon-type selected. The student would also do well to select a sermon-type with which he is familiar and experienced in using. The messages must be original with the student. Messages previously prepared for other classes or preaching occasions may not be used.

Messages are to be neither less than twenty (20) nor more than thirty (30) minutes in length. Responsibility for staying within the prescribed sermon length resides with the student. Penalties will be incurred for going under or over the time designation.

### **SERMON BRIEF:**

For help concerning form and the elements to be included on the submitted “Sermon Brief”, refer to “Guidelines for Deductive/Inductive Sermon Briefs”. The sermon brief will be submitted to the instructor prior to the student’s scheduled preaching assignment. The student will retain a copy for personal use.

### **PEER EVALUATION:**

Each student will complete a sermon evaluation form for each of the students who preach. He will hand it to the preacher at the end of the class period. When evaluating that day’s preacher the student should be helpful, not hurtful; constructive rather than destructive; aware of strengths as well as areas for needed improvement; and reflect an attitude of humility and teachability at all times.

### **Class Schedule/Due Dates**

Aug. 21	Syllabus Review/Assignment Overview	
Aug. 28	The Gospels Overview	
Sep. 4	(Labor Day) – No Class	
Sep. 11		<b>Book Review 1</b>
Sep. 18	Book Discussions	
Sep. 25		<b>Book Review 2</b>
Oct. 2		
Oct. 9	Book Discussions	<b>Book Review 3 (3 hour)</b>
<b>Oct. 16-20</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	
Oct. 23	<b>Preacher Presentations</b>	
Oct. 30	<b>Preacher Presentations</b>	<b>Gospel Summaries</b>
Nov. 6		
Nov. 13		
<b>Nov. 20-24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
Nov. 27	<u>Preaching in Class</u>	<b>Gospel Preaching Plan</b>
Dec. 4		
Dec. 11	<u>Preaching in Class</u>	

### **Course Evaluation**

2 or 3 hour credit:

(1)	Book Reviews	20%
(2)	Analytical Presentation of Contemporary Preachers	20%
(3)	Gospel Summaries	20%
(4)	Gospel Preaching Plan	20%
(5)	Preaching in Class	10%
(6)	Class Participation	10%

Note: Late work is penalized at the rate of 4 points per day. A student must complete ALL of the above assignments in order to pass the class.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

### **Technical or Blackboard Issues**

The course professor is not responsible for resolving technical or Blackboard issues. If the student experiences difficulties please contact the NOBTS ITC Support Team.

[Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu website (access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

[BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System

[ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests

[504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests

[www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

### **In Case Of A Declared Campus Evacuation**

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu) within four days of evacuation.

**SERMON BRIEF**  
Rhetorical Sermon Outline

Name:  
Assignment:  
Date Due:

**A. Foundational Elements**

1. Sermon Title (in quotation marks; headline capitalization style):
2. Text:
3. Subject (in one or two words--or as a short phrase):
4. CIT (Main Idea of the **biblical Text** in a Sentence--state in the past tense):
  
5. Proposition (present tense statement of the Main Idea of the **Sermon** in a Sentence; do not state in the past tense):
  
6. Objective (Objective of the Sermon in a Sentence--state in terms of what hearers will **do** as a result of this sermon): Hearers will....

**B. Formal Elements**

Introduction

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Body

- I.
- 1.
  - 2.
- II.
- 1.
  - 2.
- III.
- 1.
  - 2.

Conclusion

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**C. Notes**

1. The number of points may vary within the formal elements from the numbers shown above.
2. All main points (i.e., I, II, etc.) in the sermon body outline must be referenced to the text (e.g., I. The Motive of Salvation, John 3:16a; II. The Means of Salvation, John 3:16b).
3. Write all sermon body main points in headline capitalization style (e.g., The Motive of Salvation). Write all lesser points under the main points in sentence capitalization style (e.g., The personal motive).

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