



PREA6220-6320: Preaching From The Epistles
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Fall 2018 (T-Th 8-9:20 AM)

Adam L. Hughes, PhD
Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching
Dean of the Chapel
Director, Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching
Chapel Office
504-282-4455, ext. 8443
ahughes@nobts.edu

Meetings with professor and
TA by appointment
only—Please email
ahughesgrader@gmail.com to
schedule.

Teaching Assistant:
Russell K. Zwerner
Assistant to Dean of Chapel
M.Div., Expository Preaching (2015)
ahughesgrader@gmail.com

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity—Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The course will specifically address the curriculum competencies of biblical exposition, spiritual and character formation, Christian theological heritage, disciple making, and worship leadership.

Course Description

This course addresses preaching approaches to both the general and Pauline letters found in the New Testament. Attention is given to the form and function of epistolary material during the New Testament period, as well as to the implications of the backgrounds of the individual books for preaching. Special emphasis is given to sermonic developments of selected passages from the epistles. Prerequisite to entrance into this course is successful completion of *Proclaiming the Bible* (PREA 5300), *Biblical Hermeneutics* (BSHM 5310), and *Exploring the New Testament* (NTEN 5300).

* NOTE: This course is designed to help in the task of preaching from the New Testament epistles clearly, accurately, faithfully, and effectively. A theoretical base for this important dimension of biblical proclamation will be established. The student will preach in class.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Identify the Pauline and general epistles, as well as their New Testament settings;
2. Determine the distinctive message and other aspects of each epistle;

3. Understand the concepts, methods, and resources for preaching from New Testament epistles in order to preach Bible messages which are exegetically accurate, hermeneutically sound, theologically oriented;
4. Value Christian theology in order to express the essentials of the epistles with clarity;
5. Analyze the use of concepts, methods, and resources in the actual preaching of New Testament epistles in order to relate doctrinal content and human need to each other in a vibrant, relevant manner;
6. Prepare a biblical sermon from a New Testament epistle at a rudimentary level which is clearly structured, and effective in application to contemporary life;
7. Apply knowledge and comprehension of basic concepts, methods, and resources to preach a biblical sermon at a rudimentary level with clarity, interest, and force in order to achieve a positive difference in the lives of the hearers; and
8. Offer and receive constructive evaluation with increased self-understanding.

Course Teaching Methodology

1. Lecture presentations and other methods will be utilized to teach the principles and methodologies of preaching, as well as to present various resources available.
2. Writing assignments and in-class student presentations will be required to facilitate experiential learning regarding the course content and objectives. Resource persons may be used to share experiences, as time permits.
3. Class and small-group discussions will be used to stimulate personal insights about preaching.
4. Conferences with the instructors are invited, in order to promote learning and application of course principles and concepts, and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office visits.

Required Textbooks

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles, 2d ed.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Supplemental Textbooks

Bryson, Harold. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching through a Book of the Bible.*

Nashville: B&H, 1995. **Out of print but on reserve in the library.**

Rummage, Stephen Nelson. *Planning Your Preaching: A Step-by-Step Guide for Developing a One-Year Preaching Calendar.* Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

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

Additional Textbooks

Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching With Variety: How to Re-Crete the Dynamics of Biblical Genres.* Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Bailey, James, and Lyle Vander Broek. *Literary Forms in the New Testament.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.

Capes, David, Rodney Reeves, and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Carter, Terry, Scott Duvall, and Daniel Hays. *Preaching God's Word.* 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

Cox, James, Ed. *Biblical Preaching: An Expositor's Treasury.* Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors, 3d ed.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

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

Long, Thomas. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible.* Fortress, 1989.

Pate, Marvin, Scott Duvall, Daniel Hays, Randolph Richards, Dennis Tucker, and Preben Vang. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Richards, E. Randolph. *Paul and First-century Letter Writing.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules.* Grand Rapids:

- Baker Academic, 1994.
- Stenger, Werner. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Thompson, James W. *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Course Requirements

Students are required to do the following assignments:

1. Epistle Summary: The student will draft a background summary for a New Testament epistle of his or her choice from each of the following traditional categories: eschatological epistles; soteriological epistles; prison epistles; pastoral epistles; and general epistles. The total length for these 4 summaries will be between 850 and 1300 words (double-spaced). This assignment will be graded on form (Turabian), clarity, accuracy, relevance, and style of expression (critical thinking). Be sure to consult at least four critical commentaries, 3 homiletical commentaries, and discuss options for authorship, date, place, historical/cultural context, recipients, genre, purpose, theological framework, etc.; student must state and support personal reasoning for each. **Due: Sept 13**

2. Epistle Preaching Presentation: The Student will select one epistle from the traditional categories not summarized in Course Requirement one, and develop a presentation (15–20 min.):

- a. Discuss options for authorship, date, place, historical/cultural context, recipients, genre, purpose, theological framework, etc. Personal positions must be stated and supported with evidence (internal and external).
- b. Develop two outlines of the whole epistle. Outlines must be at least three levels deep in development (I, A, 1). The first outline will be a factual outline—tied directly to the text, reflecting the literary context of the text, and indicating the chapter and verses. The second outline will be an exegetical outline—interpretive in nature, based upon syntactical analysis, reflecting the significance of ideas in context, and demonstrating a direct relationship to the factual outline. This is a total of two outlines (a factual and an exegetical outline).
- c. Student will analyze the preaching of selected epistle in the published (written, audio, or video) messages of at least three sermons (not lectures, articles, or books) by one preacher.
- d. Student may distribute notes, outline, use PowerPoint, media, etc. To avoid duplication the student will notify the professor of his choices. In the case of duplication it will be “first come, first served.”
- e. Students enrolled in PATH6320 (three-hour component) must include a two page annotated bibliography of selected resources relevant to their selected epistle. **Choices Due: Sept 4. Presentation Begin: Oct 23**

3. Sermon Series Calendar and Sermon Briefs: The student will prepare a preaching calendar (at least one quarter) for preaching through the selected epistle from Course Requirement two. The calendar should include dates, series titles, sermons titles, and biblical references; consider and include holidays, special days, and days of denominational emphases. Student will develop sermons briefs--Students enrolled in PATH6220 (two-hour component) must submit three sermons briefs and students enrolled in PATH6320 (three-hour component) must submit five sermons briefs. Each sermon brief must be one page and developed from a syntactical-structural outline and an exegetical outline, both of which will be submitted with each sermon brief. The student must use the sermon brief form included in the syllabus. **Due: Oct. 25**

4. Preaching: The student will preach in class from an epistolary text of his or her choice. The message should be 20 – 25 minutes in length. A single-page sermon brief will be prepared prior to the preaching experience and submitted to the professor prior to the student’s preaching. The student must use the sermon brief form included in the syllabus. The student should be prepared on that day to answer questions from the class and/or professor about his exegesis, preparation, interpretation, understanding, and homiletic form. Copies of the single-page brief will be provided for each classmate by the student *following* the in-class discussion of the sermon. **In-Class Messages Begin: Nov. 13**

- a. The message should reflect a thorough exegesis of the biblical passage used as the basis, should be characterized by hermeneutical accuracy, and exhibit the very best use of the principles of effective development and delivery appropriate to the sermon-type selected.
- b. The sermon form (inductive, deductive, or inductive-deductive) must be determined by the structure of the text (inductive, deductive, or inductive-deductive).

5. 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.

Evaluation of Grade

All student-learning outcomes will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and examination. Student participation and behavior in class and small-group discussions will also be factors in evaluation and grading.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

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|---|-----|
| • Class Participation, attendance, and Peer evaluations | 10% |
| • Epistle Background Summaries | 20% |
| • Epistle Preaching Presentation | 20% |
| • Epistle Sermons Series Calendar and Sermon Briefs | 25% |
| • Preaching | 25% |

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Policies

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to follow Turabian 8th edition. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2015-2016 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments: Students should consult the current NOBTS Catalogue for the Seminary policy on class absences. When emergencies exist, the student may petition the Academic Advisor for permission to remain in class with excessive absences. Students also are reminded that being tardy to class can result in absences being recorded (three times tardy will be recorded as one class period absence) and that students, **not the professor**, are responsible for having their presence in class recorded on the class roll when they are tardy in attendance.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the day due. Those assignments turned in past the date and time due will incur an initial late penalty of **ten** points followed by an additional point each day it is late, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. **Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the date due without permission.**

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

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 professors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when they reasonably think that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

In Case of a Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

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 for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

August 21	Course Overview/Syllabus
August 23	Lecture/Discussion
August 28	Lecture/Discussion
August 30	Lecture/Discussion
September 4	Lecture/Discussion
September 6	Lecture/Discussion
September 11	Lecture/Discussion
September 13	Epistle Summary Due
September 18	Lecture/Discussion

September 20	Lecture/Discussion
September 25	Lecture/Discussion
September 27	Lecture/Discussion
October 2	Lecture/Discussion
October 4	Lecture/Discussion
October 9	Lecture/Discussion
October 11	Lecture/Discussion
October 16-18	Fall Break
October 23	2 Student Presentations
October 25	2 Student Presentations Peaching Calendar and Sermon Briefs Due
October 30	2 Student Presentations
November 1	2 Student Presentations
November 6	2 Student Presentations
November 8	Lecture/Discussion
November 13	2 Student Sermons
November 15	2 Student Sermons
November 20-22	Thanksgiving Break
November 27	2 Student Sermons
November 29	2 Student Sermons
December 4	2 Student Sermons
December 6	Course Conclusion and Wrap-up
December 7-13	Final Exams Week

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).