



**PREA6217-6317: Preaching From Poetic and Wisdom Literature**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Pastoral Ministries**  
**Fall 2019 (Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:20 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 *Spiritual Vitality*: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

**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 the Old Testament books and passages containing poetry and wisdom literature. Attention is given to understanding the nature of Hebrew poetry and wisdom material, including literary devices like parallelism, chiasms, inclusios, and imagery. Difficulties in interpretation as well as key theological themes are also studied. Special emphasis is placed on sermonic developments that reflect the nuances of the genres. Prerequisite to entrance into this course is successful completion of *Proclaiming the Bible* (PREA 5300), *Biblical Hermeneutics* (BSHM 5310), and *Exploring the Old Testament* (OTEN 5300).

\* NOTE: This course is designed to help the student in the task of preaching the Old Testament books containing poetry and wisdom literature 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. Apply their knowledge of OT themes, theology, and history from the poetic and wisdom texts to preaching and teaching within the local church.

2. Apply their knowledge of the theological teachings from the poetic and wisdom books to the interpretation of the NT.

### 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 and preaching 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

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. Revised edition. Chicago: Moody, 2007.  
 Perdue, Leo. *Wisdom and Creation: The Theology of Wisdom Literature*. 1994. Repr., Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2009.

### Supplemental Textbooks

Carter, Terry, Scott Duvall, and Daniel Hays. *Preaching God's Word*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.  
 Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.  
 Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Method*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.  
 Long, Thomas. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989.  
 Smith, Steven W. *Recapturing the Voice of God: Shaping Sermons Like Scripture*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2015.  
 O'Donnell, Douglas Sean. *The Beginning and End of Wisdom: Preaching Christ from the First and Last Chapters of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.

### Course Requirements

Students are required to do the following assignments:

1. **TEXTBOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS:** Students completing the two-hour course (PREA6217) must read the two assigned textbooks. Students completing the three-hour course (PREA6317) must read the assigned textbooks, *and* one additional book. Additional books recommended are printed above; however, students may read other books, if pre-approved by the professor. After completing the reading, students completing the two-hour course will complete one book review on one of the two assigned texts; students completing the three-hour course will complete three book reviews: a review on both of the assigned texts, *and* one additional book. An analytical book review will be written, containing 4 major sections: (1) a biographical sketch of the author(s); (2) a summary of the book, including an overview of the book's purpose and delineation of the book's contents; (3) an evaluation of the book, including both positive and negative criticism of the book's contents and purpose; and (4) a description of the book's contributions to the student's present ministry. The reviews should be no more than 750 words. Matters of form and style should conform to Turabian. Special attention should be given to the implications for preaching from Poetic and Wisdom Literature, as well as responding to the author's thesis.  
**DUE: NOVEMBER 7**
2. **ASSIGNED READINGS:**
  - a. Read ALL the required sections of the OT in preparation for the forthcoming lecture.
  - b. Read ALL the required material from the required textbooks and supplementary readings.
3. **ANNOTATED RESOURCE COMPILATION:** You will compile an annotated "Best Of" list of resources for one of the following texts: Job 14; Job 42: 6-7; Psalm 6; Psalm 23; Psalm 32; Psalm 33; Psalm 40; Psalm 51;

Psalm 110; Psalm 126; Proverbs 3; Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Ecclesiastes 5; Ecclesiastes 12; Song of Songs 2-5. You will sign up in class for your preferred text; first come, first served. It will include what you believe are the “Best 10 Reference Dictionary Articles”, “Best 10 Exegetical Resources”, and “Best 10 Critical Theological Resources” for the text. Compare and contrast how different commentaries have addressed the specific poetic or wisdom biblical text. You will provide copies and present this to the class.

**DUE: OCTOBER 10**

4. **GROUP PROJECT:** You will discuss how significant wisdom literature is to the writers of the NT. The student groups will be distinguished by different collections from the NT canon, i.e. Synoptics, Johannine, Pauline, and other (Jacobean, the Revelation, etc.). You will sign up in class for your preferred team; first come, first served. Your group presentation will be approximately 30 to 45 minutes in length.

**IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS BEGIN: OCTOBER 1**

5. **MODIFIED SERMON BRIEFS:** You will prepare 5 modified sermon briefs (one from each Bible book discussed in class) per the patterns discussed in class. The briefs will reflect the appropriate structural and literary analyses, historical backgrounds, theological contexts, and critical word studies. You will provide all students a copy of your material. Students taking this course for 2 credit hours will complete 3 sermon briefs.

**COMPLETED SET DUE: 11 AM CST ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

6. **PREACHING:** The student will preach one sermon in class from one of the text chosen for assignment 5. The message should be 20 – 30 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 will retain a copy for his personal use. 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: OCTOBER 29**

- 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).
7. **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:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Class Participation, Assigned Readings, and Peer Evaluations | 10% |
| • Textbook Reading and Book Reviews                            | 10% |
| • Annotated Resource Compilation                               | 15% |
| • Group Project  | 20% |
| • Modified Sermon Briefs                                       | 30% |
| • In-Class Sermon  | 15% |

### **Technical Assistance**

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

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

2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2018-2019 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](http://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 20	Course Overview/Syllabus
August 22	Lecture/Discussion
August 27	Lecture/Discussion
August 29	Lecture/Discussion
September 3	Lecture/Discussion
September 5	Lecture/Discussion
September 10	Lecture/Discussion
September 12	Lecture/Discussion
September 17	Lecture/Discussion
September 19	Lecture/Discussion
September 24	No Class – Library Study Day
September 26	Lecture/Discussion
October 1	Group Presentation
October 3	Group Presentation
October 8	Group Presentation
October 10	Group Presentation
	<b>Due: Annotated Resource Compilation</b>
October 15-17	Fall Break
October 22	Flex Day
October 24	Flex Day
October 29	Student Sermon
October 31	Student Sermon
November 5	Student Sermon

November 7	Student Sermon <b>Due: Textbook and Book Reviews</b>
November 12 November 14	Student Sermon Student Sermon
November 19 November 21	Student Sermon Student Sermon
November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 3 December 5	Student Sermon Course Conclusion and Wrap-up
December 6-12	Final Exams Week <b>Due by 11 am CST on Thursday, December 12: Modified Sermon Briefs</b>

### ACCEPTABLE SOURCES:

The following sources are the only approved journals, dictionaries, and commentaries that students can consult when answering worksheet questions and preparing the timeline. Students are encouraged to consult other scholarly books to help in research. Please note that the *Matthew Henry Commentary* and Wikipedia are not listed and students are not permitted to use them as resources.

#### Journals:

AUSS	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BSac	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CurTM	<i>Currents in Theology and Mission</i>
EvQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
ExpTim	<i>Expository Times</i> (Students should only consult issues prior to 1980)
HDivB	<i>Harvard Divinity Bulletin</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
RB	<i>Revue Biblique</i>

RQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
Sem	<i>Semeia</i>
USQR	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WTJ	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

Dictionaries:

ABD	<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>
DOTP	<i>Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch</i>
DOTHB	<i>Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books</i>
DOTWPW	<i>Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry, &amp; Writings</i>
EncJud	<i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>
ISBE	<i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i>
IDB	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>

Critical Commentaries:

AB	Anchor Bible Commentary
ApOTC	Apollos Old Testament Commentary
BCOT	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms
BO	Berit Olam
EBC	Expositor's Bible Commentary
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary - Old Testament
FOTL	Forms of Old Testament Literature
Herm	Hermeneia Commentary Series
ICC	International Critical Commentary
JPSCS	Jewish Publication Society Commentary Series
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
OTL	Old Testament Library
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary

Homiletical/Devotional Commentaries:

AOTC	Abingdon Old Testament Commentary
BTC	Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible - Old Testament
Interp	Interpretation Commentary
NAC	New American Commentary
NCB	New Century Bible Commentary
NIBC	New International Biblical Commentary - Old Testament
NIVAC	NIV Application Commentary
SHBC	Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary - Old Testament
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries
WestBC	Westminster Bible Companion - Old Testament



## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Old Testament Introductions**

- Anderson, Bernhard. *Understanding the Old Testament*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997.
- Anderson, George Wishart. *A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament*. Studies in Theology. London: Duckworth, 1959.
- Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.
- Arnold, Bill T., and B. E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Dallas: Baker, 1999.
- Atwell, James E. *Sources of the Old Testament: A Guide to the Religious Thought of the Old Testament in Context*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2004.
- Baker, David W., and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2004.
- Benjamin, Don C. *The Old Testament Story: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004.
- Bentzen, Aage. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 3d ed. Copenhagen: G. E. C. Gads, 1957.
- Beyer, Bryan E., and Bill T. Arnold. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Birch, Bruce C., et al. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.
- Brettler, Marc Zvi. *How to Read the Bible*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2005.
- Brevard S. Childs, *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2003.
- Brueggemann, Walter, ed. *New Interpreter's Bible Old Testament Survey*. New York: Abingdon Press, 2006.
- Cartledge, Samuel A. *A Conservative Introduction to the Old Testament*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1944.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Coggins, Richard J. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Oxford Bible. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Collins, John Joseph. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Fortress, 2007.
- Coogan, Michael D. *Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Old Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Davies, Philip R., and John W. Rogerson. *Old Testament World*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2006.
- Dillard, Raymond B., and Tremper Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

- Drane, John W. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2001.
- Driver, S. R. *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*. 9th ed. Gloucester: Oxford, 1972.
- Dyer, Charles H., and Eugene H. Merrill. *Nelson's Old Testament Survey*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2001.
- Dumbrell, William J. *Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. Dallas: Baker, 2002.
- Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Harper & Row, 1965.
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- Fohrer, Georg. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Translated by David Green. London: SPCK, 1970.
- Gottwald, Norman K. *Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1979.
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- Matthews, Victor H., and James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1997.
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- Mendenhall, George E., and Gary A. Herion, eds. *Ancient Israel's Faith and History: An Introduction to the Bible in Context*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.
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- Vriezen, T. C., and A. S. van der Woude. *Ancient Israelite and Early Jewish Literature*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.

### **Intertextuality**

- Beale, G. K. *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?: Essays on the Use of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994.
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### **Specialized Introductions on Poetry and Wisdom Literature**

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