

Contemporary Models for the Local Church
PATH5336
2015 Pastor's Conference

First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida
Dr. Thomas Strong

NOBTS 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: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The seminary is emphasizing the core value of “spiritual vitality” this year and encourages all to focus especially on that facet.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to expose students to current issues and discussions regarding expository preaching. The Pastor's Conference held at FBC Jacksonville, FL will serve as a foundation for acclimating the students to current issues in preaching.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, each student will:

1. Be able to interact with peers concerning current discussions related to expository preaching.
2. Be exposed to current literature and examples of expository preaching, as well as developing an ability to evaluate these.
3. Be challenged to assimilate and reflect upon these issues and their relationship to practical ministry

Course Methodology: The course will be taught in conjunction with the 2015 Pastor's Conference held on the campus of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville from January 22-25, 2015. Students will attend and evaluate all general sessions as well as assigned special interest seminars. In addition, dialogue sessions will be scheduled during selected conference breaks in which NOBTS faculty will facilitate discussion of the students' observations and evaluations. Additional dialogue sessions will be scheduled with conference personalities depending upon their availability. Students also will conduct independent study with regard to written assignments related to the course.

Course Requirements

1. Each student will read *Text-Driven Preaching: God's Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*, edited by Daniel Akin, David L. Allen, & Ned Mathews. A 6-8 page book review will then be written including both summary and critique of the book. Also, the implications of this book upon current or future ministry should be noted. This assignment is due one month from the last day of the conference in the Leavell College office. The assignment may be submitted as an email attachment

2. During the conference, each student will:

- A. attend **all** pre-conference and general conference sessions (those held in the main auditorium), at least half of the premium sessions, and 2 selected special interest sessions
- B. take detailed notes on information from the content of the various sessions as well as observations the student makes about the sessions and the church in general;

****Please note – the notes should be organized to reflect with ease one's attendance and participation in the conference. Also, the student should note that no absences from the conference will be permitted and failure to fulfill all of the attendance requirements listed above will result in failure of the course.***

3. Each student will write a 8-10 page reflection paper regarding the conference. In the paper, the following matters must be addressed:

- 1. Transferrable principles discovered in the ministry of FBC Jacksonville and from the sermons heard (principles of preparation, etc.)
- 2. Reflections upon the sermons heard: strengths, weaknesses, ideas for implementation in your ministry.
- 3. General impressions from the conference.

Course Evaluation:

Book Review	Assignment #1	30%
Conference Participation	Assignment #2	40%
Paper	Assignment #3	30%

Bibliography:

- Anderson, Leith. *Dying for Change*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1990.
- Barna, George. *User Friendly Churches*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1991.
- Callahan, Kennon L. *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1983.
- Dobson, Ed. *Starting a Seeker Sensitive Service*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Guinness, Os. *Dining with the Devil*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993.
- Hybels, Bill, and Lynne Hybels. *Rediscovering the Church: The Story and Vision of Willow Creek Community Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.
- Hybels, Bill, Stuart Briscoe, and Haddon Robinson. *Mastering Contemporary Preaching*. Portland: Multnomah, 1989.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. *Ashamed of the Gospel*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993.
- MacArthur, John, Jr., and The Master's Seminary Faculty. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Waco: Word Publishing, 1992.
- MacArthur, John, Jr., and The Master's College Faculty. *Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry: Shaping Contemporary Ministry with Biblical Mandates*. Waco: Word Publishing, 1995.
- The Miracle of Downtown*. Produced by First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1983.
- Robinson, Darrell W. *Total Church Life*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985.
- Seglar, Franklin M. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967.
- Stowell, Joseph M. *Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1994.
- Strobel, Lee. *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Towns, Elmer L. *10 of Today's Most Innovative Churches*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

White, James Emery. *Opening the Front Door: Worship and Church Growth*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1992.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Real Worship*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986.

Webber, Robert E. *Worship is a Verb*. Word Books Publishers, 1985.