

**PREA6219/6319, Preaching from the Gospels**  
**Division of Pastoral Ministries**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Spring 2015**

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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.

**Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies**

The seminary has five core values. **The core value focus for 2014-2015 is Spiritual Vitality.** This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

*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 and Message 2000."

*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.

*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.

*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.

*Servant Leadership:* We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. 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.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course will be composed of class lectures and discussions led by the professor, independent study on the part of the students, small group discussions, and class presentations by the students.

## **Textbooks**

Students must read two of the following books (one from each category):

### 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.

**\*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 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. The reviews are due the first day of the workshop.

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/she implements this preaching plan in his/her ministry.

### Due Dates

Assignment 1: Book Reviews	Book from Category #2 Exposition and Preaching Day 1 of Class, Monday, March 23
	Book from Category #1 NT, Gospels, and Jesus April 17
Assignment 2: Preacher Presentations	Week of the Workshop
Assignment 3: Gospel Summaries	May 1
Assignment 4: Major Project	May 1

## **Course Evaluation**

2-hour credit:

(1)	Book Reviews	25%
(2)	Analytical Presentation of Contemporary Preachers	30%
(3)	Gospel Preaching Plan	35%
(4)	Class Participation	10%

3-hour credit:

(1)	Book Reviews	25%
(2)	Analytical Presentation of Contemporary Preachers	30%
(3)	Gospel Preaching Plan	35%
(4)	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.

**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).

## Selected Bibliography

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