



PREA 6288/6388 Preaching through Revelation
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Spring 2017

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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

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 *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.*

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 curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This course addresses preaching approaches to the various themes and emphases found in the book of Revelation. Attention is given to the book's purpose, authorship, date of writing, literary structure, genre, first audience, and content outline. Special attention is given to the development of sermons appropriate to the exegetical, theological, and expositional substance of the book. Prerequisites: PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible, NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament, and BSHM5310 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand the context, nature, and genre of the book of Revelation;
2. Determine the distinctive message and other aspects of the book of Revelation;
3. Understand the concepts, methods, and resources for preaching from Revelation in order to preach messages which are exegetically, hermeneutically, theologically, and homiletically sound;
4. Prepare biblical sermons from Revelation which are clearly structured and effective in application to contemporary life;
5. Value preaching Revelation in today's world.

Required Textbooks

Hamilton, James M. *Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
Pate, C. Marvin, ed. *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
Poythress, Vern S. *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2000.

Optional Textbooks

Beale, G. K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
Johnson, Dennis E. *Triumph of the Lamb*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2001.

Stevens, Gerald L. *Revelation: The Past and Future of John's Apocalypse*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2014.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Research and writing. Students are expected to write at an academic standard commensurate with the level of instruction in order to prepare for post-graduate publications.
2. Lecture. Much of the class time will consist of lecture by the professor, and students are expected to interact, thus demonstrating both a quest for knowledge and a grasp of the course material.
3. Student presentations. Students will present information gleaned from their research in order to demonstrate their ability to retain and communicate information effectively.
4. Homiletics. Students will plan a sermon series and write sermon briefs and a sermon manuscript in order to demonstrate their ability to choose appropriate preaching texts, conduct thorough exegesis, and develop sermons for use in the local church.
5. Hybrid instruction. All course sections will be linked to multiple locations via video conferencing. Students in all locations will participate fully in course discussions and interactions.

Course Requirements

1. **Blackboard:** The student will create an account on NOBTS Blackboard and enroll in this course once enrollment closes on January 20 (no enrollment code necessary for this course).

DUE: January 23

Discussion Participation. Students will participate in weekly Discussion Board questions. Sometimes these will require responding to reading assignments, whether from assigned textbooks or other material provided.

2. **Oral Presentation:** The student will analyze three (six for students taking 6388) **sermons** from Revelation (written, audio, or video but not lectures, articles, or books) by one or more of the following preachers:

Origen of Alexandria	Augustine of Hippo	Chrysostom of Antioch
Martin Luther	John Calvin	John Knox
John Bunyan	John Wesley	John Broadus
Jonathan Edwards	Charles Simeon	Harold Bryson
G. Campbell Morgan	D.L. Moody	Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Karl Barth	W.A. Criswell	George W. Truett
Clyde Fant Jr.	J. I. Packer	John R. W. Stott
Warren Wiersbe	Voddie Baucham	D. Martin Lloyd-Jones
William Willimon	Haddon Robinson	J.D. Gray
John MacArthur	Donald G. Miller	B. Gray Allison
Leith Anderson	John Piper	Charles Stanley
Millard Erickson	Rick Warren	Joel Gregory
Gardner Taylor	Adrian Rogers	Calvin Miller
David Jeremiah	Chuck Swindoll	Billy Graham
Jim Shaddix	David Platt	Ed Young Jr.
Andy Stanley	Don Wilton	Steve Gaines
David Uth	Francis Chan	Robert Smith
Matt Chandler	James MacDonald	David Allen
Mark Driscoll	Jerry Vines	Mac Brunson
Benny Hinn	Joyce Meyer	Joel Osteen
Mark Driscoll	Alistair Begg	Tim Keller
Joseph Parker	Chip Henderson	Charles Haddon Spurgeon
Fred Luter	Waylon Bailey	David Crosby
Alexander Maclaren	Phillips Brooks	Jim Henry

The student may instead choose to analyze how the same text is treated or used in one sermon each by any three (or six) of the above preachers. This analysis will be presented by the student in-class and should be approximately twenty (20) minutes total. The student may distribute notes, outlines, 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.”

CHOICES DUE: January 27

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE: February 18

3. **Annotated Analysis:** The student will submit **one** typed, 4 pages or less, single-spaced (or 6 pages for students taking 6388) annotated analysis of **two** of the required textbooks (all **three** for students taking 6388), plus **two** of the optional textbooks (**three** for students taking 6388). Format: this **one** single-spaced analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of each of the **four** (or **six**) books with their associated annotations that answer the following questions:

- a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
- b. What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for preaching?
- c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for preaching?

A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page.

DUE: April 1

4. **Introduction Paper:** The student will write an introduction paper on the book of Revelation. The paper should include sections covering the following: author, date, recipients and occasion, genre, and structure (which will also include an outline of the book). The paper is to be 12-15 pages, double-spaced and should contain adequate footnotes and a bibliography with a minimum of ten sources.

DUE: April 14

5. **Sermon Series:** Each student will prepare a sermon series from the book of Revelation. The series should include:
- At least 10 sermons, including title, text, and a one-paragraph description of the sermon content. No more than half the sermons can be from chapters 2 or 3.
 - Sermon briefs for 6 of the sermons, with no more than one brief from chapters 2 or 3. Students taking 6388 should submit 9 sermon briefs. Use the attached sermon brief form.
 - A full sermon manuscript of one of the sermons in the series. The manuscript may not be from chapters 2 or 3.

DUE: April 29

6. **Preaching:** Students completing the three-hour course will preach one sermon in class from the selected sermon series. 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. Students enrolling in PREA6288 (2 hours credit) will omit this assignment.

IN-CLASS MESSAGE DUE: April 29

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.

6. **Pericopal Breakdown:** Students taking the class for 3 hours (PREA6340) will divide the entire book of Revelation into preaching units. This will be a rudimentary document that only shows the chapter and verse divisions to be used as sermon texts. Sermon titles or outlines are not necessary. The student will email the pericopal breakdown to the professor and all other students in the class before the last day of the semester.

DUE: May 5

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

PREA 6288

- 20% Blackboard Discussions
- 10% Oral Presentations
- 30% Introduction Paper
- 10% Annotated Analysis
- 30% Sermon Series

PREA 6388

- 10% Blackboard Discussions
- 10% Oral Presentations
- 25% Introduction Paper
- 15% Annotated Analysis
- 20% Sermon Series
- 10% In-class Preaching
- 10% Pericopal Breakdown

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.

Class Policies

1. Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.
2. Because of the nature of the hybrid format, attendance is mandatory for all class sessions.

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

All class sessions will meet on Saturday mornings from 8:00-11:50.

- January 28:** Introductions, course overview, and syllabus review.
Revelation background material.
Nature of apocalyptic literature.
- February 18:** Oral Presentations.
History of interpretation of Revelation.
- April 1:** Textbook discussions.
Eschatological perspectives.
- April 29:** Sermons & evaluations.
Challenges of preaching Revelation.

Selected Bibliography

- Akin, Daniel L., Bill Curtis, and Stephen Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011.
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- Barclay, William. *Letters to the Seven Churches*. London: S.C.M. Press, 1957.
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- Beasley-Murray, G.R. *The Book of Revelation*. Interpretation Series. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1989.
- Boring, Eugene M. *Revelation*. Interpretation Series. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1989.
- Brown, David. *Christ's Second Coming: Will it Be Premillennial?* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.
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- Eller, Vernard. *The Most Revealing Book of the Bible: Making Sense out of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub., 1974.
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- Ewert, David. *And Then Comes The End*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1980
- Ezell, Douglas. *Revelations on Revelation: New Sounds from Old Symbols*. Waco: WordBooks, 1977.
- Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastor*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Ford, J. Massynberde. *Revelation: A New Translation with introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible Series. New York: Doubleday, 1975.
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- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- _____. *The Lamb and the Lion: The Gospel in Revelation*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Pub., 1984.
- Graham, Billy. *Approaching Hoofbeats: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. Minneapolis: Grason Pub, 1983.
- Gregg, Steve. *Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *The Millennial Maze: Sorting Out Evangelical Options*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992.
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- Walvoord, John F. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.

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, **but not a sentence**):
4. ETS (Essence of the Text in a Sentence--state in the **past** tense):
5. ESS (Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence--also called the Proposition; do **not** state in the past tense):
6. OSS (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.