

**PREA9406 The Art of Preaching**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries  
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Fall 2011

### **Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of the 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.

### **Purpose of the Course, Core Value Focus, and Competencies Addressed**

The purpose of this seminar is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries. The core value focus of this course will emphasize characteristic excellence. The course will specifically address the competencies of biblical exposition, Christian theological heritage, and interpersonal skills.

### **Course Description**

A study is made of the development of the art of preaching, giving special attention to definitive works.

### **Seminar Objectives**

By the end of the seminar, the student will:

1. Be able to list significant homiletical advancements, definitive works, and important preachers contributing to the development of the art of preaching;
2. Be able to discuss knowledgeably the historic context, preaching, and published works of significant preachers and teachers of preaching and their contributions to the art of preaching;
3. Be able to describe transferable concepts and principles for contemporary and future development of the art of preaching;
4. Value the historic and contemporary development of the art of preaching.

### **Course Methods**

1. The primary course method will involve student research and the reporting of that research in papers and seminar presentations. Students are expected to be knowledgeable of basic research methodologies and to hone their research skills beyond the basic level.
2. Small-group discussions will be utilized to enhance and promote personal assimilation and integration of course concepts and content. Students are expected to be active participants in seminar discussions.
3. Student interaction with peers, expository preaching resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate insights about the art of preaching and its development. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office visits.
4. Library and Internet resources will be referenced in seminar sessions and in the reporting of research.

## Textbooks

Students are encouraged to explore the variety of resources pertaining to classical and contemporary preaching. Due to the large number of texts available in the field of study, no particular texts will be required. However, students should examine a number of resources (books and dissertations) on the art of preaching. The texts listed in the Selected Bibliography will be helpful.

## Seminar Requirements

1. Each seminar member is to read two books important to the development of the art of preaching, submit a typed analysis paper of **five** pages (or less) on each book, and report on **one** of those books (please see the syllabus bibliography). The reports are to be both oral and written. Oral reports are to consist of a **twenty-minute** (or less) presentation, accompanied with the **five-page** paper (or less), typed in seminar Turabian format which utilizes parenthetical references (rf., Turabian 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 18.3.1; example: Barlow 1999, 23). The paper should be single-spaced and consist of these components: heading (complete bibliographic listing), author sketch, book purpose, historic context, content summary, and personal evaluation of the book's contribution to the art of preaching. Copies of the written reports are to be distributed to the seminar participants at the time of presentation. A cover page is to be included, but blank pages and binders are not to be included.

2. Each seminar member is to present one minor paper on a topic related to the art of preaching and its development. Topic possibilities include (but are not limited to) the following: the sermon text and its selection, sermon forms in the history of preaching, the classification of sermons, the relationship of text form to sermon form, the relationship of sermon delivery to sermon development, the relationship of pastoral ministry to preaching, functional sermon elements, media-aided preaching, architecture and preaching, open-air preaching, the audience and preaching, culture and preaching, rhetoric and preaching, communication theory and preaching, the Holy Spirit and preaching, the relationship and influence of worship on the art of preaching, the influence of preaching lectureships on the art of preaching, the influence of homiletical texts and journals on the art of preaching, seminary education and the art of preaching, and the preacher's personality and gifts. Oral reports are to be **twenty minutes** (or less), while written papers are to be **twelve** pages (or less) and typed single-spaced in seminar Turabian format with parenthetical references. Papers should include both classical and contemporary resources, when appropriate. Copies of the report with a cover page are to be distributed to all seminar participants at the time of presentation (and are not to include blank pages or binders).

3. Each seminar member is to present one major research paper on the life and preaching of a significant preacher. The paper is to present research on the preacher's life and times (including educational background and preaching positions), any published sermons and other works related to preaching, an analysis of **five** sermons (note: the analysis of the sermons must utilize a research guide approved by the professor and based on Broadus or Robinson), and contributions to the art of preaching. The major paper should be in correct Turabian term-paper format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents page, selected bibliography, and at least three chapters (introduction, body, and conclusion). The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and less than **forty** pages in total page count. The oral presentation of the paper should be **forty minutes** (or less), and copies of the paper are to be distributed to all seminar participants at the time of presentation.

4. Each member of the seminar is to submit a typed (single-spaced) final exam on the **last** seminar day. The final exam is to consist of the following components:

a. A two-page discussion of significant homiletical advancements, definitive works, and important preachers contributing to the development of the art of preaching;

b. A two-page (or less) discussion of transferable concepts and principles for contemporary and future development of the art of preaching, which reflects an assimilation and integration of seminar concepts, principles, and research regarding the field;

c. A three-page (or less) annotated bibliography of ten key books on the art of preaching which supplements the seminar syllabus bibliography (each annotation should summarize and evaluate);

d. A three-page (or less) annotated bibliography of ten key dissertations on the art of preaching (each annotation should summarize and evaluate).

### Research and Writing Guidelines

1. All research should be documented from original sources as much as possible.
2. The use of secondary sources for documentation should be limited to reputable writers, researchers, and publishers (e.g., be careful concerning Internet websites).
3. Dissertations and theses may be referenced, but they should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports.
4. Interviews may be utilized for content formulation and documentation with regard to original and secondary documentation, but should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports without permission of the seminar leader.
5. Written papers should conform to the sixth or seventh edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian, except as noted in the delineation of individual seminar assignments.

### Seminar Grade

The final grade for each seminar participant will be determined as follows:

Two Book Reports and Presentation Average	20%
Minor Paper and Presentation	20%
Major Paper and Presentation	40%
Final Exam	20%

Seminar participation of members will also be a factor considered in the determination of the final grade.

### Schedule of Seminar Sessions

August 29	Introduction to the Seminar Research Review Preliminary Assignments Lecture Discussion: The Art of Preaching
September 12	Presentations: Book Reports
September 26	Presentations: Book Reports
October 10	Presentations: Minor Papers
October 17	Fall Break Holiday
October 24	Presentations: Minor Papers
November 7	Major Paper Presentations
November 21	Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28	Major Paper Presentations
December 12	Major Paper Presentations Discussion: The Art of Preaching Beyond Today Final Exam Submission

## **Selected Bibliography**

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