

PREA9407 Elements of Style in Contemporary Preaching
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course supports the five core values emphasized by the seminary.

The core value for 2014-2015 is Spiritual Vitality.

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.

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

Course Description

A detailed consideration is given to those elements of expression leading to excellence in preaching. The study is to be based on examples provided by selected contemporary preachers.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, the student will:

1. Be able to list significant elements of homiletical style, definitive works, and important preachers contributing to excellence in contemporary preaching;
2. Be able to discuss knowledgeably the context, preaching, and published works of significant contemporary preachers and their contributions to the effective use of elements of style in preaching;
3. Be able to describe transferable concepts and principles for contemporary and future development of the art of preaching in regards to the use of significant elements of homiletical style;

4. Value the historic and contemporary development of the effective use of style in 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, preaching resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate insights about the use of style in contemporary preaching. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office visits.

4. Library and other resources will be referenced in seminar sessions and in the reporting of research.

Textbooks

Due to the varied texts available in the scope of seminar study, no particular texts will be required. Students are encouraged to explore the variety of resources pertaining to the use of elements of style in contemporary preaching. However, students should examine a number of resources (books, journal articles, and dissertations) on the use of style in contemporary preaching. The books listed in the Selected Bibliography will be helpful.

Seminar Requirements

1. Each seminar member is to prepare a three-page double-spaced report on style and the elements of style in preaching. The report should be developed from sections, chapters, or discussions on style and the elements of style found in a minimum of four preaching texts (See Bibliography). Each student should be prepared to discuss style and the elements of style in preaching, particularly discussing insights gleaned from the initial interaction with the preaching texts. The report is due at the first seminar meeting (8/29), at which time the student will be expected to participate in the discussion on style and the elements of style, particularly as it pertains to contemporary preaching.

2. Each seminar member is to read two books on rhetoric, public speaking, or preaching helpful to an understanding of the elements of style in preaching; submit a typed analysis paper of six-eight pages on each book, and report on the books in the appropriately assigned seminar session (please see the syllabus schedule and bibliography). Note: the books to be read must be approved by the professor. The oral report is to consist of a **thirty-minute** presentation, accompanied with the **six-eight page** papers, typed in seminar Turabian format, which utilizes parenthetical page references. The papers should be single-spaced and consist of these components: heading (complete bibliographic listing), author sketch, book purpose, content summary, helpful information on style, and personal evaluation of the book's contribution to an understanding of the elements of style in 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.

3. Each seminar member is to present **one minor paper** on the elements of style in preaching. The paper may address style with a focus on the preacher, the audience and setting, the text and Bible version, oral versus literary style, classical versus contemporary style, the use of media presentations in preaching, or some other helpful research topic. Note: the topic to be researched must be approved by the professor. Oral reports are to be **forty minutes**, while written papers are to be **twenty-five pages** and typed double-spaced in Turabian format with appropriate use of footnotes. Papers may include both classical and contemporary resources, as appropriate, and should include a reference list of books and journal articles cited (and dissertations, if appropriate). Copies of the report with a cover page are to be distributed to all seminar participants at least **one week prior** to the time of presentation (and are not to include blank pages or binders).

4. Each seminar member is to present **one major research paper** on the elements of style in the preaching of a significant contemporary preacher. Note: the preacher to be researched must be approved by the professor. 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 to ten** sermons with regard to the preacher's use of the elements of style, and contributions to the effective use of style in contemporary 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 **thirty-five to forty** pages in total page count. The oral presentation of the paper should be **fifty minutes**, and copies of the paper are to be distributed to all seminar participants one week prior to the time of presentation.

5. 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 six to eight significant contemporary preachers and the contribution of each in the effective use of style in preaching;
- b. A two-page discussion of transferable concepts and principles for contemporary and future development of the art of preaching in regards to the use of significant elements of homiletical style, 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 helpful books on the elements of style in preaching which supplements the syllabus bibliography (each annotation should summarize and evaluate);
- d. A three-page annotated bibliography of eight journal articles and two dissertations helpful regarding the elements of style in 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 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:

Report and Discussion on Elements of Style	5%
Book Report and Presentation Average	15%
Minor Paper and Presentation	20%
Major Paper and Presentation	35%
Final Exam	25%

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

Schedule of Seminar Sessions

August 29 8-11am; 1-5pm	Introduction to the Seminar Syllabus Overview Review the nature of professional research DUE: Preliminary three-page report Lecture Discussion: "Style in the Art of Preaching: A Case Study"
September 19	DUE: Book Reports
September 26 8-11am; 1-5pm	Presentations: Book Reports
October 31	DUE: Minor Paper
November 7 8-11am; 1-5pm	Presentations: Minor Papers
November 28	DUE: Major Paper
December 5 8-11am; 1-5pm	DUE: Final Exam Submissions Presentations: Major Papers

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