

AMERICAN PREACHING

PREA9404

Division of Pastoral Ministries

Dr. Reggie R. Ogea

Associate Professor of Leadership and Pastoral Ministry

ProDoc Office, Sanders Center for Ministry Excellence (ext. 3728; rogea@nobts.edu)

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NOBTS Mission Statement

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description

"This seminar is concerned with a selected number of American preachers and their preaching. Some time is given to the study of special movements and circumstances which significantly influenced American preaching." (*Graduate Catalog for 2003-2004*)

Seminar Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the theory and practice of the preaching of selected American preachers, as well as the various influences upon their lives and ministries.
2. To assess the primary contributions of selected American preachers to the field of preaching, to their churches, and to their communities.
3. To evaluate the cultural context of various period of American preaching.
4. To discover the unique contributions of American preaching to the field of preaching.

Course Methods

1. The primary course method will involve student research and the reporting of that research in papers and seminar presentations.
2. Lectures and small-group dialogue will be utilized to enhance and promote personal assimilation and integration of course concepts and content.
3. Student interaction with peers, pastoral ministry resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the course professor are encouraged during the duration of this seminar to facilitate insights about pastoral work. Conferences with the professor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, email, or office visits.

Required Textbook

Witham, Larry. *A City Upon a Hill: How Sermons Changed the Course of American History*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

Supplemental Textbooks

Fant, Clyde, and William Pinson, Jr., *20 Centuries of Great Preaching* (reprint, *A Treasury of Great Preaching*).

Holland, DeWitt T. *Preaching in American History*.

_____, *Sermons in American History*.

Turnbull, Ralph G. *A History of Preaching*, Vol. 3. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1974.

Wiersbe, Warren and Lloyd Perry. *The Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers*. 1984.

Seminar Assignments

Each seminar participant will complete the following:

1. A **Critical Analysis** of *A City Upon a Hill*, 3 pages, single-spaced, to include the following:
 - a. A summary of the book's contents, not to exceed three paragraphs
 - b. A discussion of the main contributions of the book for American Preaching
 - c. A discussion of the five most surprising insights of the book regarding American Preaching.**Due: January 31.**
2. A **Dialogue** of one of the *General Issues of American Preaching*. Seminar participants will be paired in teams of two for the dialogues. Listening guides of key insights and major points should be made available for each seminar participant. **Due: February 14**
3. An **Informal Report** on four (4) of the *Special Issues of American Preaching*, with no more than two (2) from the same century. Each Informal Report is to be 4-5 pages, single-spaced, at least 6 sources consulted with bibliographic entries attached. Each Informal Report should include:
 - a. the historical and cultural context of the issue.
 - b. key personalities involved in the issue and a brief biographical profile on each
 - c. major implications of the issue in American Preaching**Due on Scheduled Day of Presentation**
4. A **Major Paper** on three (3) American preachers from different periods of American preaching. The subjects will be selected by the seminar participants and approved by the professor. A list of representative preachers in their time periods is provided in the syllabus. The Major Papers must be formal in style according to Turabian, 6th edition. Each Major Paper should be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, at least 10 sources consulted with bibliographic entries attached. Each Major Paper should include:
 - a. An overview of the subject's life with emphasis on significant influences such as family, early training, conversion, call to preach, formal education, and churches served and/or denominational positions held.
 - b. Writings and/or published sermons
 - c. Theological views
 - d. An analysis of preaching style, including method of sermon preparation, schedule of study, system of sermon organization, method of sermon delivery, etc.
 - e. An assessment of his impact on church and community
 - f. Major contributions to American Preaching**Due on Scheduled Day of Presentation**
5. Each student will complete an **Exit Project** by writing a narrative of American preaching organized by time periods. Discussion of each period should include the following: cultural context, the state of preaching, representative preachers, homiletical literature, the development of theological training, and other pertinent information gleaned from the seminar. The project should conclude with an annotated bibliography of works used in the formulation of the project. **Due: May 15.**

Grade Determination

Critical Analysis	15%
Dialogue	15%
Informal Reports	20%
Major Papers	25%
Exit Project	25%

Seminar Schedule

January 24	Seminar Introduction/Assignments
January 31	<i>A City Upon a Hill</i> Critical Analyses
February 7	NO SEMINAR
February 14	Dialogues on <i>General Issues of American Preaching</i>
February 21	Informal Reports on <i>Special Issues in American Preaching</i>
February 28	Informal Reports
March 6	Informal Reports
March 13	Informal Reports
March 20	Major Papers on <i>American Preachers</i>
March 27	NO SEMINAR – SPRING BREAK
April 3	Major Papers
April 10	Major Papers
April 17	NO SEMINAR
April 24	Major Papers
May 1	Major Papers
May 8	Major Papers
May 15	Exit Project Due

GENERAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN PREACHING

- Why Study the History of Preaching?
- Survey of Homiletical Literature
- Homiletical Values of the Yale Lectures
- Development of Theological Schools and Their Influence on Preaching
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SPECIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN PREACHING

Eighteenth Century:

- Impact of Preaching on the American Revolution
- Emergence of Theological Schools
- Influences of Puritanism on American Preaching
- Preaching in the First Great Awakening
- Election Day Sermons

Nineteenth Century:

- Preaching in Second Great Awakening (contrast with preaching in the First Great Awakening)
- Slavery and Preaching
- North Carolina Baptists and Slavery
- The Baptist Farmer Preacher
- The Origin and Development of the Southern Baptist Convention
- Mass Evangelism (Finney, Moody)
- Darwinism and Preaching
- Horace Bushnell and Christian Nurture
- The Social Gospel
- Contributions of John A. Broadus

Twentieth Century:

- Fundamentalism and Modernism (Fosdick, McCartney)
- Psychological Preaching (Peal, Oates, Shuler)
- The Electronic Church (Falwell, Shuler, Sheen)
- Televangelism and the influence of Billy Graham
- Women in the Pulpit
- African-American Preaching
- The Holy Spirit and Preaching (Olford)
- Civil Rights Preaching (King)
- The Issue of War on American Culture (Claypool, Graham)

Twenty-first Century

- Post Modernism
- The New Homiletic
- The Rise of the Megachurch
- The Impact of the Internet/"e-sermons"
- Natural Tragedies/Global Tensions
- Preaching and American politics
- Moral/legal issues and family values
- Preaching in the New Millennium

PREACHERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

I. The Colonial Period

John Cotton (1585-1652)
John Eliot (1604-1690)
Thomas Hooker (1586-1647)
Roger Williams (1600-1684)
John Davenport (1597-1670)
Cotton Mather (1663-1728)

II. The Eighteenth Century

Johnathan Edwards (1703-1758)
Samuel Blair (1712-1751)
Jonathan Dickinson (1688-1747)
Deveraux Jarratt (1773-1801)
David Brainerd (1718-1747)
John Witherspoon (1723-1794)
Samuel Davies (1724-1761)
Samuel Findley (1715-1766)
Jonathan Mayhew (1720 -1766)
Joseph Bellamy (1719-1790)
Samuel Hopkins (1721-1803)
Timothy Dwight (1752-1817)
Nathaniel Emmons (1754-1840)
Shubael Stearns (1706-1771)
Daniel Marshall (1706-1784)
James Manning (1738-1791)
Oliver Hart (1723-1795)
Jahn Gano (1727-1804)
John Leland (1754- 1841)
Francis Asbury (1745-1816)

III. The Nineteenth Century

Richard Furman (1755-1825)
William E. Channing (1780-1825)
Lyman Beecher (1775-1863)
Charles G. Finney (1792-1875)
Alexander Campbell (1788-1866)
Francis Wayland (1786-1865)
Horace Bushnell (1802-1876)
Richard Fuller (1804-1876)
Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)
B. H. Carroll (1843-1915)
Sam Jones (1847-1900)
Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899)
Russell H. Conwell (1842-1925)
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
John A. Broadus (1827-1895)
John R. Graves (1820-1893)
W. M. Taylor (1829-1899)
John Hall (1829-1899)
Lyman Abbott (1835-1922)
Nathaniel Burton (1824-1887)
Thos. DeWitt Talmage (1832-1902)
Washington Gladden (1836-1918)
A. J. Gordon (1836-1895)
C.I. Scofield (1843-1291)
R. A. Torrey (1856-1928)
Wilbur Chapman (1859-1918)
Chas E. Jefferson (1860-1937)
Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)
George A. Gordon (1853-1929)
E. Y. Mullins (1860-1928)
Charles R. Brown (1862-1950)
W. A. Sunday (1863-1935)
George W. Truett (1867-1944)

IV. The Modern Period

Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)
M.E. Dodd (1878-1952)
Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)
Lynn Harold Hough (1877-1971)
James Wallace Hamilton (1900-1968)
James Herman Robinson (1907-1972)
Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
Henry Allen Ironside (1876-1951)
Clovis G. Chappell (1887-1972)
Elton Trueblood (1900-1994)
Paul E. Scherer (1892-1969)
Harold Ockenga (1905-1985)
Donald Grey Barnhouse (1895-1960)
Walter A. Maier (1883-1950)
Fulton J. Sheen (1885-1979)
W. A. Criswell (1909-2002)
Peter Marshall (1902-1949)
William F. Graham (1918-)
Charles R. Brown (1862-1950)
Andrew Blackwood (1882-1968)
Charles Koller (1896-1983)
Harold Cooke Phillips (1892-1966)
Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)
Paul Tillich (1886-1965)
Halford Luccock (1885-1960)
R. G. Lee (1886-1978)
Joseph Fort Newton 1880-1950)
Clarence Macartney (1879-1957)
E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973)
Charles E. Fuller (1887-1968)
Hershall Hobbs (1907-1995)
Gerald Kennedy (1907-1980)
Ralph Sockman (1889-1970)
George A. Buttrick (1892-1980)
Samuel Shoemaker (1893-1963)
Stephen Olford (1918-2004)
Morgan P. Noyes (1891-1972)
L. R. Scarborough (1870-1945)
Adrian Rogers (1931-2005)
Jerry Falwell (1933-2007)
D. James Kennedy (1930-2007)
Warren W. Wiersbe (1929-)

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- Jameson, Franklin P. *The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement*. 1951.
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- Wright, Lewis, et al. *The Democratic Experience: A Short American History*. 1963.
- Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States: 1492 – Present*. 2005

II. Religion in American

- Ahlstron, S. E. *A Religious History of the American People*. 1972.
- Albanese, Catherine. *America: Religions and Religion*, Third Edition, 2006
- Anderson, W. K., ed. *Protestantism-A Symposium*. 1944.
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Miller, Robert. *American Protestantism and Social Issues, 1919-1939*. 1958.

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III. American Preaching

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