

PREA9407 Elements of Style in Contemporary Preaching

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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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 spirituality vitality. The course will specifically 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.

Seminar Objectives

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

Students are encouraged to explore the variety of resources pertaining to the use of elements of style in contemporary preaching. Due to the varied texts available in the scope of seminar study, no particular texts will be required. 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 read **one book** on public speaking or preaching helpful to an understanding of the elements of style in preaching, submit a typed analysis paper of **six** pages (or less) on the book, and report on the book in an assigned seminar session (please see the syllabus bibliography). Note: the book to be read must be approved by the professor. The oral report is to consist of a **twenty-minute** (or less) presentation, accompanied with the **six**-page paper (or less), typed in **seminar** Turabian format which utilizes parenthetical page references. The paper 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.

2. 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 **thirty 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 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 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 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 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 six to eight significant contemporary preachers and the contribution of each in the effective use of style in preaching;

b. A two-page (or less) 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 (or less) 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:

Book Report and Presentation Average	15%
Minor Paper and Presentation	20%
Major Paper and Presentation	40%
Final Exam	25%

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

Schedule of Seminar Sessions

January 25	Introduction to the Seminar Research Review Preliminary Assignments Lecture Discussion: "Style in the Art of Preaching"
February 8	Presentations: Book Reports
February 22	Presentations: Book Reports
March 8	Presentations: Minor Papers
March 29	Presentations: Minor Papers
April 12	Presentations: Minor Papers/Major Papers
April 26	Presentations: Major Papers
May 10	Presentations: Major Papers/Final Exam Submission

Selected Bibliography

The History of Preaching

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General

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Spring Semester Bible Reading Plan January 19, 2010 – May 15, 2010

JANUARY

19	1 Samuel 13:23-14:52, John 5:1-23, Psalm 64:1-6, Proverbs 14:5-7
20	1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 5:24-47, Psalm 64:7-10, Proverbs 14:8-9
21	1 Samuel 17:1-58, John 6:1-21, Psalm 65:1-8, Proverbs 14:10-12

- 22 1 Samuel 18:1-19:24, John 6:22-40, Psalm 65:9-13, Proverbs 14:13-14
 23 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, John 6:41-59, Psalm 66:1-7, Proverbs 14:15-16
 24 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, John 6:60-7:9, Psalm 66:8-15, Proverbs 14:17-19
 25 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, John 7:10-30, Psalm 66:16-20, Proverbs 14:20-22
 26 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25, John 7:31-53, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 14:23-25
 27 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13, John 8:1-20, Psalm 68:1-6, Proverbs 14:26-28
 28 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32, John 8:21-41, Psalm 68:7-14, Proverbs 14:29-30
 29 2 Samuel 3:1-4:12, John 8:42-9:7, Psalm 68:15-19, Proverbs 14:31-32
 30 2 Samuel 5:1-6:23, John 9:8-27, Psalm 68:20-27, Proverbs 14:33-35
 31 2 Samuel 7:1-9:13, John 9:28-10:6, Psalm 68:28-31, Proverbs 15:1-3

FEBRUARY

- 1 2 Samuel 10:1-11:27, John 10:7-30, Psalm 68:32-35, Proverbs 15:4-5
 2 2 Samuel 12:1-13:39, John 10:31-11:6, Psalm 69:1-4, Proverbs 15:6-7
 3 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37, John 11:7-20, Psalm 69:5-12, Proverbs 15:8-9
 4 2 Samuel 16:1-17:29, John 11:21-44, Psalm 69:13-18, Proverbs 15:10-11
 5 2 Samuel 18:1-19:23, John 11:45-12:11, Psalm 69:19-28, Proverbs 15:12-13
 6 2 Samuel 19:24-21:22, John 12:12-33, Psalm 69:29-36, Proverbs 15:14-15
 7 2 Samuel 22:1-23:7, John 12:34-13:11, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 15:16-17
 8 2 Samuel 23:8-24:25, John 13:12-38, Psalm 71:1-8, Proverbs 15:18-19
 9 1 Kings 1:1-53, John 14:1-21, Psalm 71:9-16, Proverbs 15:20-21
 10 1 Kings 2:1-46, John 14:22-15:10, Psalm 71:17-24, Proverbs 15:22-23
 11 1 Kings 3:1-4:34, John 15:11-16:4, Psalm 72:1-7, Proverbs 15:24-25
 12 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, John 16:5-33, Psalm 72:8-14, Proverbs 15:26-27
 13 1 Kings 7:1-51, John 17:1-26, Psalm 72:15-20, Proverbs 15:28-29
 14 1 Kings 8:1-66, John 18:1-23, Psalm 73:1-6, Proverbs 15:30-31
 15 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, John 18:24-19:3, Psalm 73:7-12, Proverbs 15:32-33
 16 1 Kings 11:1-12:11, John 19:4-24, Psalm 73:13-20, Proverbs 16:1-2
 17 1 Kings 12:12-13:34, John 19:25-42, Psalm 73:21-28, Proverbs 16:3-4
 18 1 Kings 14:1-15:34, John 20:1-20, Psalm 74:1-6, Proverbs 16:5-7
 19 1 Kings 16:1-17:24, John 20:21-21:9, Psalm 74:7-11, Proverbs 16:8-10
 20 1 Kings 18:1-46, John 21:10-25, Psalm 74:12-17, Proverbs 16:11-12
 21 1 Kings 19:1-20:43, Acts 1:1-26, Psalm 74:18-23, Proverbs 16:13-15
 22 1 Kings 21:1-22:23, Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 16:16-17
 23 1 Kings 22:24- 2 Kings 1:18, Acts 2:22-47, Psalm 76:1-6, Proverbs 16:18-19
 24 2 Kings 2:1-3:27, Acts 3:1-26, Psalm 76:7-12, Proverbs 16:20
 25 2 Kings 4:1-5:14, Acts 4:1-22, Psalm 77:1-6, Proverbs 16:21-22
 26 2 Kings 5:15-7:9, Acts 4:23-5:11, Psalm 77:7-12, Proverbs 16:23-24
 27 2 Kings 7:10-9:13, Acts 5:12-32, Psalm 77:13-20, Proverbs 16:25-26
 28 2 Kings 9:14-10:36, Acts 5:33-6:15, Psalm 78:1-8, Proverbs 16:27-28

MARCH

- 1 2 Kings 11:1-13:9, Acts 7:1-22, Psalm 78:9-16, Proverbs 16:29-30
 2 2 Kings 13:10-15:15, Acts 7:23-43, Psalm 78:17-22, Proverbs 16:31-33
 3 2 Kings 15:16-16:20, Acts 7:44-8:13, Psalm 78:23-31, Proverbs 17:1-2
 4 2 Kings 17:1-41, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 78:32-39, Proverbs 17:3-4

5 2 Kings Ki 18:1-19:19, Acts 9:1-22, Psalm 78:40-47, Proverbs 17:5-6
 6 2 Kings 19:20-21:26, Acts 9:23-43, Psalm 78:48-55, Proverbs 17:7-8
 7 2 Kings 22:1-23:37, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 78:56-64, Proverbs 17:9-10
 8 2 Kings 24:25:30, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 78:65-72, Proverbs 17:11-12
 9 1 Chronicles 1:1-2:2, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 79:1-8, Proverbs 17:13-14
 10 1 Chronicles 2:3-55, Acts 12:1-25, Psalm 79:9-13, Proverbs 17:15-16
 11 1 Chronicles 3:1-4:43, Acts 13:1-22, Psalm 80:1-7, Proverbs 17:17
 12 1 Chronicles 5:1-6:32, Acts 13:23-41, Psalm 80:8-13, Proverbs 17:18-19
 13 1 Chronicles 6:33-81, Acts 13:42-14:7, Psalm 80:14-19, Proverbs 17:20-21
 14 1 Chronicles 7:1-8:28, Acts 14:8-28, Psalm 81:1-7, Proverbs 17:22-23
 15 1 Chronicles 8:29-9:44, Acts 15:1-21, Psalm 81:8-16, Proverbs 17:24-25
 16 1 Chronicles 10:1-11:47, Acts 15:22-41, Psalm 82:1-8, Proverbs 17:26
 17 1 Chronicles 12:1-13:14, Acts 16:1-24, Psalm 83:1-8, Proverbs 17:27-28
 18 1 Chronicles 14:1-16:6, Acts 16:25-17:9, Psalm 83:9-18, Proverbs 18:1-3
 19 1 Chronicles 16:7-17:15, Acts 17:10-34, Psalm 84:1-12, Proverbs 18:4-5
 20 1 Chronicles 17:16-20:8, Acts 18:1-23, Psalm 85:1-7, Proverbs 18:6-8
 21 1 Chronicles 21:1-23:13, Acts 18:24-19:20, Psalm 85:8-13, Proverbs 18:9-11
 22 1 Chronicles 23:14-24:31, Acts 19:21-41, Psalm 86:1-10, Proverbs 18:12-13
 23 1 Chronicles 25:1-26:32, Acts 20:1-21, Psalm 86:11-17, Proverbs 18:14-15
 24 1 Chronicles 27:1-28:21, Acts 20:22-21:6, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 18:16-17
 25 1 Chronicles 29:1- 2 Chronicles 1:17, Acts 21:7-29, Psalm 88:1-9, Proverbs 18:18-19
 26 2 Chronicles 2:1-4:22, Acts 21:30-22:10, Psalm 88:10-18, Proverbs 18:20-21
 27 2 Chronicles 5:1-6:42, Acts 22:11-30, Psalm 89:1-10, Proverbs 18:22
 28 2 Chronicles 7:1-8:18, Acts 23:1-22, Psalm 89:11-18, Proverbs 18:23-24
 29 2 Chronicles 9:1-10:19, Acts 23:23-24:9, Psalm 89:19-29, Proverbs 19:1-3
 30 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22, Acts 24:10-27, Psalm 89:30-37, Proverbs 19:4-5
 31 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14, Acts 25:1-22, Psalm 89:38-45, Proverbs 19:6-7

APRIL

1 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34, Acts 25:23-26:18, Psalm 89:46-52, Proverbs 19:8-9
 2 2 Chronicles 19:1-21:11, Acts 26:19-27:8, Psalm 90:1-12, Proverbs 19:10-12
 3 2 Chronicles 21:12-24:16, Acts 27:9-29, Psalm 90:13-17, Proverbs 19:13-14
 4 2 Chronicles 24:17-26:23, Acts 27:30-28:10, Psalm 91:1-8, Proverbs 19:15-16
 5 2 Chronicles 27:1-29:17, Acts 28:11-31, Psalm 91:9-16, Proverbs 19:17
 6 2 Chronicles 29:18-31:10, Romans 1:1-23, Psalm 92:1-7, Proverbs 19:18-19
 7 2 Chronicles 31:11-33:13, Romans 1:24-2:16, Psalm 92:8-15, Proverbs 19:20-21
 8 2 Chronicles 33:14-35:15, Romans 2:17-3:8, Psalm 93:1-5, Proverbs 19:22-23
 9 2 Chronicles 35:16- Ezra 1:1-11, Romans 3:9-31, Psalm 94:1-11, Proverbs 19:24-25
 10 Ezra 2:1-70, Romans 4:1-25, Psalm 94:12-23, Proverbs 19:26-27
 11 Ezra 3:1-5:17, Romans 5:1-21, Psalm 95:1-11, Proverbs 19:28-29
 12 Ezra 6:1-7:28, Romans 6:1-23, Psalm 96:1-9, Proverbs 20:1
 13 Ezra 8:1-9:15, Romans 7:1-25, Psalm 96:10-13, Proverbs 20:2-3
 14 Ezra 10:1- Nehemiah 1:11, Romans 8:1-25, Psalm 97:1-6, Proverbs 20:4-6
 15 Nehemiah 2:1-3:32, Romans 8:26-9:5, Psalm 97:7-12, Proverbs 20:7-9
 16 Nehemiah 4:1-6:19, Romans 9:6-29, Psalm 98:1-9, Proverbs 20:10-12
 17 Nehemiah 7:1-60, Romans 9:30-10:21, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 20:13-15

- 18 Nehemiah 7:61-9:38, Romans 11:1-21, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 20:16-18
 19 Nehemiah 10:1-11:19, Romans 11:22-12:7, Psalm 101:1-8, Proverbs 20:19-21
 20 Nehemiah 11:20-12:47, Romans 12:8-13:7, Psalm 102:1-11, Proverbs 20:22-23
 21 Nehemiah 13:1 - Esther 1:22, Romans 13:8-14:12, Psalm 102:12-17, Proverbs 20:24-25
 22 Esther 2:1-4:17, Romans 14:13-15:13, Psalm 102:18-22, Proverbs 20:26-27
 23 Esther 5:1-7:10, Romans 15:14-33, Psalm 102:23-28, Proverbs 20:28-30
 24 Esther 8:1-10:3, Romans 16:1-27, Psalm 103:1-5, Proverbs 21:1-3
 25 Job 1:1-3:26, 1 Corinthians 1:1-19, Psalm 103:6-14, Proverbs 21:4-5
 26 Job 4:1-6:10, 1 Corinthians 1:20-2:9, Psalm 103:15-22, Proverbs 21:6-7
 27 Job 6:11-8:22, 1 Corinthians 2:10-3:15, Psalm 104:1-9, Proverbs 21:8-9
 28 Job 9:1-10:22, 1 Corinthians 3:16-4:13, Psalm 104:10-15, Proverbs 21:10-11
 29 Job 11:1-13:12, 1 Corinthians 4:14-5:13, Psalm 104:16-23, Proverbs 21:12-14
 30 Job 13:13-15:13, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 104:24-30, Proverbs 21:15-16

MAY

- 1 Job 15:14-17:16, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 104:31-35, Proverbs 21:17-19
 2 Job 18:1-20:11, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Psalm 105:1-6, Proverbs 21:20-21
 3 Job 20:12-21:34, 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:12, Psalm 105:7-15, Proverbs 21:22-24
 4 Job 22:1-24:12, 1 Corinthians 9:13-10:5, Psalm 105:16-27, Proverbs 21:25-26
 5 Job 24:13-27:23, 1 Corinthians 10:6-24, Psalm 105:28-36, Proverbs 21:27-28
 6 Job 28:1-30:8, 1 Corinthians 10:25-11:16, Psalm 105:37-45, Proverbs 21:29-31
 7 Job 30:9-31:40, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 22:1-2
 8 Job 32:1-33:33, 1 Corinthians 12:1-20, Psalm 106:13-23, Proverbs 22:3-4
 9 Job 34:1-35:16, 1 Corinthians 12:21-13:13, Psalm 106:24-31, Proverbs 22:5-6
 10 Job 36:1-37:24, 1 Corinthians 14:1-25, Psalm 106:32-39, Proverbs 22:7-8
 11 Job 38:1-39:12, 1 Corinthians 14:26-15:11, Psalm 106:40-48, Proverbs 22:9-10
 12 Job 39:13-40:24, 1 Corinthians 15:12-34, Psalm 107:1-9, Proverbs 22:11-12
 13 Job 41:1-42:17, 1 Corinthians 15:35-58, Psalm 107:10-16, Proverbs 22:13-14
 14 Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:8, 1 Corinthians 16:1-24, Psalm 107:17-22, Proverbs 22:15-16
 15 Ecclesiastes 3:9-6:12, 2 Corinthians 1:1-22, Psalm 107:23-32, Proverbs 22:17-19