

“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.”

We are here not merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

PATRISTIC AND REFORMATION PREACHING

“How shall they call on One in Whom they have not believed; how shall they believe in One Whose Words they have not heard; how shall they hear without a preacher; how shall they preach unless messengers are sent forth:...

‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’

(Rm. 10:14-15; personal translation)

“Let the pastors who show themselves good leaders be considered worthy of double honor and remuneration, especially those who work diligently at gospel preaching and theological teaching.”

(1 Tim 5:17; personal translation)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth... But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths...”

(2 Tim 2:15; 3:13-4:4; NASB)

“We believe that the Bible is the Word of God in the highest and fullest sense, and is the unrivalled authority in determining the faith and practice of God’s people; ...”

■ *NOBTS Articles of Religious Belief* (Article I – Sole Authority of Scriptures)

“Baptists are a people of deep beliefs and cherished doctrines. Throughout our history we have been a confessional people, adopting statements of faith as a witness to our beliefs and a pledge of our faithfulness to the doctrines revealed in Holy Scripture. Our confessions of faith are rooted in historical precedent, as the church in every age has been called upon to define and defend its beliefs. Each generation of Christians bears the responsibility of guarding the treasury of truth that has been entrusted to us [2 Timothy 1:14]. . . the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.”

■ *Report of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee* (Preface; see also *1925 New Hampshire Confession* and *1963 Baptist Faith and Message*)

“[The Holy Bible] reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried.”

■ *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* (Article I – The Scriptures)

DESCRIPTION:

In this seminar, significant developments in preaching during the Patristic and Reformation periods will be explored through contextual and biographical research as well as analysis of sermons. Attention will be given to such preachers as Augustine, Chrysostom, Luther, and Calvin. [current Graduate Catalog]

COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED:

Biblical Exposition -- To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately;

Christian Theological Heritage -- To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church;

Disciple Making -- To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth;

Spiritual and Character Formation -- To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion; and

Worship Leadership -- To facilitate worship effectively.

CORE VALUES EMPHASIZED:

Characteristic Excellence; Doctrinal Integrity; Spiritual Vitality

2012-13 emphasis: Servant Leadership

OBJECTIVES:

The student who satisfactorily fulfills the requirements should be able by the end of the course to:

- articulate an understanding of the important contextual issues related to preaching in the Patristic and Reformation periods in church history;
- isolate the critical transitional factors in preaching associated with each period;
- master the prevailing theories of preaching of each period;
- develop an instrument for analyzing sermons from each period that reflects sensitivity to the prevailing theories of preaching;
- critique the sermons of selected Patristic and Reformation preachers; and
- interpret transferable principles from research for contemporary preaching theory.

METHODS:

Historical background papers will be presented as a means of providing a context for the study of prevailing preaching theories and representative preachers. Research papers on selected preachers of each period will be presented in order to propose transferrable principles for contemporary preaching theory.

Hard copies (not electronic copies) of each student's work will be distributed to everyone in the seminar at least **ONE WEEK PRIOR** to the student's presentation. Each student is expected to have read and become familiar with the research scheduled for the day's presentation, come to the seminar with at least five (5) written questions about the subject of the paper, and to engage in thoughtful, informed discussion in response to the presentation. All papers and in-class presentations will also be posted in the appropriate sections of the course Blackboard.

All work must confirm to the seminary's standards of published academic research as reflected in the 6th edition of Kate Turabian's manual used by the seminary, and clarifications of certain form issues as reflected in the seminary web site resources and posted on the seminar's Blackboard. This will be a factor in the professor's evaluation.

Since this is Ph.D. level work, the highest standards of professional English grammar and style are expected. This will be a factor in the professor's evaluation. All work must be original to the student; plagiarism is not tolerated.

Students are also encouraged to present their research in creative ways, appropriate for adult learning, professional research, and effective teaching. This will be a part in the professor's evaluation. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to read the paper to the seminar; assume that the others have already read and become familiar with the material prior to the day of presentation.

TEXTBOOKS:

A wide variety of sources will be consulted in the seminar. No specific textbook is assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **BLACKBOARD:** You will create an account on Blackboard and enroll in this course, using the authorization code given by the professor. **DUE: First Friday of semester**
2. Each student will prepare a detailed, annotated bibliography of primary resources for two segments of the Patristic through Reformation periods of preaching, including the major social conditions; political, theological, and congregational issues; theories of homiletics; biographical, as well as sermonic materials and collections. Selections of the specific periods will be the responsibility of the student in consultation with the professor. The student will deliver two 60-minute presentations, teaching the content and conclusions of his research. **PRESENTATIONS: Feb 7 & 21**
3. Each student will present two 2500-word research papers on the historical background of two segments of the Patristic through Reformation periods of preaching. The research will include the major social conditions; political, theological, and congregational issues; and theories of homiletics. Selection of the specific periods will be the responsibility of the student in consultation with the professor. The student will deliver two 90-minute presentations, teaching the content and conclusions of his research. **PRESENTATIONS: Feb 21, March 7, 14, & 28**
4. Each student will present two 3500-word research papers on two selected Patristic through Reformation preachers. The research will include biographical, as well as specific sermonic research; analysis of the preacher's engagement with the prevalent social, political, theological, and congregational issues; observations of the preacher's use or neglect of the contemporary homiletical theories; and possible transferable principles for contemporary preaching theory. Selection of the preachers will be the responsibility of the student in consultation with the professor. The student will deliver two 90-minute presentations, teaching the content and conclusions of his research.

PRESENTATIONS: March 28, April 11, 25, & May 9

FINAL EVALUATION:

Annotated Bibliography	–	2 bibliographies @ 10% each = 20%
Historical / Contextual Research	–	2 papers @ 20% each = 40%
Biographical / Homiletical Research	–	2 papers @ 20% each = 40%

SCHEDULE:

Jan 24	Introduction		
Feb 7	Annotated Bibliographies	1.	2.
		3.	
Feb 21	Contextual Analyses	1.	
Mar 7		2.	3.
Mar 14		1.	2.
		3.	
Mar 28	Research Papers	1.	
Apr 11		2.	3.
Apr 25		1.	2.
		3.	
May 9	Final Observations		

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

An extensive, annotated bibliography will be developed by the students themselves.

STUDENT / PROFESSOR CONFERENCES:

The professor is available to meet with students during office hours.

DISCLAIMER:

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

IN CASE OF A DECLARED CAMPUS EVACUATION, students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.