



## **BESR9304 Supervised Reading Colloquium: Contextual Issues in Biblical Exposition**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries

**Spring 2020 \* Thursday \* 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**(1/23, 2/27, 4/2, 5/7)**

### **Dr. Preston L. Nix**

Professor of Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching  
Occupying the Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism  
Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health  
Chairman of the Pastoral Ministries Division

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer McMillen  
Office: The Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health  
E-mail: [pnix@nobts.edu](mailto:pnix@nobts.edu); [leavellcenter@nobts.edu](mailto:leavellcenter@nobts.edu)  
Phone: 504-282-4455 ext. 8820

### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is 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” (2019-20 Online *Graduate Catalog*, p. 5).

### **Course Description**

This colloquium is designed to direct Ph.D. students majoring in biblical exposition to explore contextual issues in foundational readings and literary resources which have shaped and are shaping preaching.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Be able to identify contextual issues which have shaped preaching.
2. Be able to list key literary resources and discuss knowledgeably important foundational readings containing selected contextual issues.
3. Demonstrate acceptable knowledge of preaching in the subject area of contextual issues in their doctoral qualifying and oral exams.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This colloquium is designed to be a resource-driven learning experience. As such, the professor will direct students in the reading of selected foundational works through reading and writing assignments. Students will

also research significant developments reported in key professional journals within the field of preaching. Monthly accountability and sharing sessions with the professor and colloquium students will be held. Conferences with the professor are invited in order to facilitate learning and guide student research. Such conferences may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office appointments.

### **Textbooks**

Gibson, Scott M., ed. *The Worlds of the Preacher: Navigating Biblical, Cultural, and Personal Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

Nieman, James R. *Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

In addition to the two textbooks, students will be required to obtain the resources necessary to accomplish the course objectives and assignments. A selected bibliography will be provided to students by the professor. Students are expected to identify and locate other key literary resources related to contextual issues in preaching. The professor will assist students in their discussion of literary resources, articles, and papers on contextual issues in preaching.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are required to do the following assignments:

1. Complete a two-page (or less) annotated analysis of **three foundational works** on contextual issues in preaching, two of which will be the required textbooks. The third selection should be one that the student has not read prior to the colloquium and must be approved by the professor. Each analysis should follow a correct Turabian bibliographic citation of the selected text and answer the following questions:
  - a. What is a concise, one-paragraph summary of the text?
  - b. What is the significance of this text concerning contextual issues in preaching?
  - c. What are one or more significant developments in the text related to contextual issues in preaching?
  - d. What, if any, criticism can be made of the text's usefulness in understanding contextual issues in preaching?

Students will be required to share the annotated analyses in a meeting of the colloquium, as assigned by the professor. Students are expected to make sufficient copies of their third analysis for all colloquium participants.

2. Complete a two-page (or less) annotated analysis of **three homiletics journal articles** on contextual issues in preaching. The professor must approve the student's selections. Each analysis should follow a correct Turabian bibliographic citation of the selected article and answer the following questions:
  - a. What is a concise, one-paragraph summary of the article?
  - b. What is the significance of the article concerning contextual issues in preaching?
  - c. What are one or more significant developments in the article related to contextual issues in preaching?

d. What, if any, criticism can be made of the article's usefulness in understanding contextual issues in preaching?

Students will be required to share the annotated analyses in a meeting of the colloquium, as assigned by the professor. Students are expected also to make sufficient copies of the analyses for all colloquium participants.

3. Complete a **selected bibliography** of key literary resources which discuss contextual issues in preaching, as follows:

- a. Students preparing for their doctoral **qualifying** exam must list **thirty** books in correct Turabian format;
- b. Students preparing for their doctoral **oral** exam must list **forty** books in correct Turabian format.

Students will be required to share the selected bibliography in a meeting of the colloquium, as assigned by the professor. Students are expected also to make sufficient copies of the bibliography for all colloquium participants.

4. Complete a **list of ten significant contextual issues** which have impacted preaching. The list should identify the issue and its significance, one literary source which discusses the issue, and a brief evaluation of the issue's relevance, if any, to contemporary preaching. Students will be required to share the list in a meeting of the colloquium, as assigned by the professor, and are expected also to make sufficient copies of the list for all colloquium participants.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and presentations. Student participation in the colloquium discussions also will be a factor in evaluation and grading.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

1. Annotated Analyses of Foundational Works	20%
2. Annotated Analyses of Journal Articles	20%
3. Selected Bibliography	30%
4. Significant Contextual Issues List	30%

### **Course Schedule**

Thursday, January 23, 6:00-8:00 P.M., Course Introduction

Thursday, February 27, 6:00-8:00 P.M., Annotated Analyses of Foundational Works Due; Selected Bibliography Due

Thursday, April 2, 6:00-8:00 P.M., Annotated Analyses of Journal Articles Due

Thursday, May 7, 6:00-8:00 P.M., Significant Contextual Issues List Due

### **Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments**

Students are not to miss any meetings of the colloquium. In emergency situations, students should notify the professor. Students who are excused by the professor for one colloquium meeting due to an unavoidable

emergency will be assigned a topic to research and on which to write a twenty-page research paper for submission on April 24. All assignments are due as scheduled by the professor. Late assignments are not permitted.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## **Selected Bibliography**

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Briloth, Yngve. *A Brief History of Preaching*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.

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#### *General*

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- Achtemeir, Elizabeth R. *Creative Preaching: Finding the Right Words*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.
- Akin, Daniel L., Bill Curtis, and Stephen Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2011.
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