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 Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries. The core value focus of this course in 2015 will be mission focus. The course will specifically address the competencies of biblical exposition, spiritual and character formation, interpersonal skills, and worship leadership.

Course Description

In this course, videotaped sermons preached by students will serve as the basis for a study of preaching content, structure, style, and delivery. Prerequisite: PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student will:
1. Be able to apply homiletical concepts, principles, and resources helpful for effective oral interpretation of Scripture, sermon construction, and sermon delivery;
2. Value Christian proclamation as a vital part of personal ministry;
3. Demonstrate acceptable proficiency in performing Christian proclamation with the aid of an instructor or course resources, whether as one called to preach or as one with some other Christian calling.

Course Methods

Online content notes and other instructional methods will be utilized to review and teach important fundamentals and principles about sermon construction, delivery, oral interpretation, and voice, as well as to present and discuss applicable print and other resources. Writing assignments will be required to facilitate experiential learning and skills development in sermon building and communication. Student preaching, feedback, and group discussions will be used to promote personal insights about oral interpretation and sermon delivery. The online preaching laboratory and student self-study will be important instructional components. Listener feedback forms and personal critique forms will be utilized to aid personal analysis in assessing preaching competency needs and strengths of students in sermon construction and delivery.

Textbooks

The following textbooks are required (will be cited in class notes and/or in assignments):
Arthurs, Jeffrey D. Devote Yourself to the Public Reading of Scripture. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.
Course Requirements

Students are required to:

1. Submit a one-page single-spaced annotated analysis for each of the four textbooks: i.e., the required textbooks by Fasol, Heisler, McDill, and York and Decker. Each book analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of the book with its associated annotations, which answer the following questions:
   a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
   b. What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for Christian proclamation?
   c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for Christian proclamation?
   Each analysis should be submitted with a cover page. The due date for each analysis will be given in the course schedule.

2. Prepare and videotape one devotional presentation of ten to twelve minutes in duration, based on an Old Testament passage (selected by the student from any of the following Old Testament books: Genesis through Psalms). Twenty-four hours prior to their scheduled presentation, students are also to e-mail each professor a sermon brief of their devotion, following the format of the rhetorical sermon brief form in this syllabus (other formats will not be accepted). Presentation guidelines: the devotion is to be presented before an audience, preferably at least ten or more people. While the presentation is not required to be in a church building setting, students are encouraged to do so in order to have high quality video equipment and to gain additional experience in the church setting. The video should be framed to show the student’s posture and movement while speaking, but it also should be close enough to reveal gestures and facial expressions during the presentation. Students should dress appropriately to the setting of the presentation and should upload the videotaped presentation on YouTube (in accordance with instructions to be posted on Blackboard).

3. Prepare and videotape one preaching presentation of a New Testament passage (selected by the student from any of the Gospels, Matthew through John, or from Acts). The preaching presentation is neither to exceed eighteen minutes nor to be less than fifteen minutes in duration. The sermon delivered is to be a rhetorical sermon outlined on the sermon brief form in this syllabus, and twenty-four hours prior to their scheduled presentation, students are also to e-mail each professor the sermon brief. Presentation guidelines: the student is to present the New Testament sermon in a local church setting. The message does not have to be in a regular service but may be in a specially scheduled event. A minimum of at least twelve people (preferably twenty or more) must be present. In addition to providing the student with the critically important experience of preaching in the local church setting, the aim is to have a high quality video and a more consistent location for the presentation and the evaluation. The video should be framed to show the student’s posture and movement while preaching, but it also should be close enough to reveal gestures and facial expressions during the presentation. Students should dress appropriately to the setting of the presentation and should upload the videotaped presentation on YouTube (in accordance with instructions to be posted on Blackboard).

4. Complete:
   a. An audience preaching feedback form following each student’s devotional and preaching presentations. The document is available under the Course Documents menu with additional instructions on its use and posting. All students will turn in one audience feedback form for each devotion and sermon presentation for each student in your designated group (groups will be listed on Blackboard). Students will need to label feedback forms according to the full name of the student presenter that they critique. Student feedback will be given only on the feedback form, will be anonymous, and must be posted by the due date listed on the Course Schedule (which will be posted on Blackboard).
b. A personal critique/feedback evaluation form for each of the student’s two presentations. The document is available under the Course Documents menu, and instructions will be provided to each student on the form’s completion and posting.

5. Take a final exam. The final exam will be an open-book exam and will cover course notes, the required course texts, and reflection on the personal presentations and feedback given. The exam will be posted on Blackboard by 8:00 A.M. on Friday, December 11, and the completed exam is due to be e-mailed only to barlowsec@nobs.edu no later than 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Evaluation

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the annotated analysis assignment, devotional presentation, New Testament preaching presentation, critique/feedback evaluation, and final examination.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:
1. Annotated textbooks analyses 25%
2. Devotional presentation/critique/evaluation and responses 25%
3. Preaching presentation/critique/evaluation and responses 30%
4. Final examination 20%

Late Assignments Penalty

Assignments turned in past the date due will incur a late penalty of ten points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the date due (but assignments may be submitted before the due date). All assignments must be submitted as specified.

Course Topics

Course topics will be selected from the following topics:
- Introduction
- Homiletics Review and Matters of Sermon Construction
- Sermon Delivery and Communication
- Oral Interpretation of Scripture
- Fundamentals of Voice and Vocal Care
- Using Multimedia in Preaching
- Devotionals and Preaching Presentations
- Concluding Matters

Online Course Reminders

1. Online Etiquette (Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior). While much learning can be done independently, students will have the opportunity to interact through the online answers posted through Blackboard on the Discussion Board. In doing so, students are reminded to show respect for others, be considerate of viewpoints, and demonstrate Christ-honoring behavior in posts and responses to posts that promote learning by all.
2. Student Honesty. Students are expected to exhibit integrity in doing their assignments, completing reports, submitting posts, and taking the course final exam.
3. Plagiarism. Students are reminded to demonstrate the high standards of conduct in writing assignments and not violate the Seminary’s policy on plagiarism in the current Graduate Catalog or the Student Handbook.
Sermon Brief Form

Students **must use** the attached sermon brief form for the **sermon brief** required in the Old Testament and New Testament presentation assignments for this course. Students may **not** substitute other forms. Please read and follow the notes and examples given in the form. Frequently made mistakes that cost points in the sermon brief assignment include the following:

1. Not writing the E.T.S., E.S.S., or O.S.S. in **complete** sentences
2. Not writing the E.T.S. in the **past** tense
3. Writing the E.S.S. in the **past** tense
4. Not **following** the required O.S.S. form: Hearers will...
5. Not citing a biblical reference for each main point heading
6. Not following the specified format for the sermon title
7. Writing the sermon subject as a sentence

Selected Bibliography


Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Devote Yourself to the Public Reading of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.


SERMON BRIEF
Rhetorical Sermon Outline

Name:
Assignment:
Date Due:

A. Foundational Elements
1. Sermon Title (in quotation marks; headline capitalization style):
2. Text:
3. Subject (in one or two words--or as a short phrase):
4. ETS (Essence of the Text in a Sentence--state in the past tense):

5. ESS (Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence--also called the Proposition; do not state in the past tense):

6. OSS (Objective of the Sermon in a Sentence--state in terms of what hearers will do as a result of this sermon): Hearers will....

B. Formal Elements
Introduction
1.
2.
3.
Body
I.
1.
2.
II.
1.
2.
III.
1.
2.
 Conclusion
1.
2.
3.

C. Notes
1. The number of points may vary within the formal elements from the numbers shown above.
2. All main points (i.e., I, II, etc.) in the sermon body outline must be referenced to the text (e.g., I. The Motive of Salvation, John 3:16a; II. The Means of Salvation, John 3:16b).
3. Write all sermon body main points in headline capitalization style (e.g., The Motive of Salvation). Write all lesser points under the main points in sentence capitalization style (e.g., The personal motive).
Syllabus Addendum—Helpful Information

Emergency Plan
In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. Also, students should use Blackboard to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Blackboard.

Technical Assistance
Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!
*Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
*BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
*ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
*504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.
*www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.