

Expository Preaching in the 21st Century Church

PMPR8301 Birmingham, Al.

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Seminary Mission Statement

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.

NOBTS Core Purpose, Core Values, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

CORE VALUES

1. Doctrinal Integrity- The course will follow the confessional commitments that are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
2. Spiritual Vitality- The professor will teach that preaching without spiritual vitality is ineffective for the Kingdom of God.
3. Mission focus- The mission focus of the course will center on preaching in the local church.
4. Characteristic Excellence- The professor will teach that preaching is a service to Christ and therefore should be rendered with characteristic excellence.
5. Servant Leadership- The professor will teach that servant leadership is the authentication of the preacher.

CORE COMPETECIES- The seminar will address four of the seven competencies.

1. Biblical Exposition- The students will be challenged to preach expository messages which seek to give the Bible a voice to today's context.
2. Disciple Making- Students will consider the importance of the discipleship as a major purpose of preaching.
3. Interpersonal Skills- The professor will challenge students to see the vital connection between interpersonal skills and a high ethos for the preacher.
4. Servant Leadership- The professor will reinforce the importance of the preacher being a servant leader.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar involves students in research and reflection on various dimensions of expository preaching in the contemporary church. A two-pronged focus examines both the rationale and practice of expository preaching especially as it is applied to pastoral ministry. Students will be given the opportunity to dialogue with selected guest practitioners regarding their respective philosophies and practices of expository preaching. Students also will complete selected assignments designed to enhance their own preparation and delivery of expository messages.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Identify issues related to the practice of expository preaching in the contemporary church.
2. Identify the disciplines necessary for the effective practice of expository preaching in the contemporary local church.
3. Develop and articulate a functional strategy of expository preaching that addresses the needs of the 21st century congregation.
4. Demonstrate a degree of effectiveness in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons.

METHODOLOGY

1. Reading and Critical Reflection. Students will read selected books and articles on the nature of expository preaching and issues related to its contemporary application, and then engage in critical dialogue regarding such subjects.
2. Student-led Discussions. Students will present the results of their reading and reflection through the means of guided discussion.
3. Critical Dialogue. Students will engage the professors of record in meaningful dialogue to discuss their convictions about and approaches to expository preaching.
4. Individual Research. Students will research and report on various subjects related to expository preaching.

TEXTBOOKS

Miller, Calvin. *Preaching: The Art of the Narrative Exposition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006. ISBN: 0801012902

MacArthur, John. *Preaching: How to Preach Biblically*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005. ISBN: 1418500046

Olford, Stephen F. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998. ISBN: 0805460853

Robinson, Haddon and Craig Larson. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 0310252482

Robinson, Haddon W. and Torrey W. Robinson. *It's All in How You Tell It: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003. ISBN: 0801091500

ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Seminar Assignments:

1. Each student will write a **Annotated Analysis**, (two to three pages single-spaced) of the following books:

Olford, Stephen F. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998. ISBN: 0805460853

Miller, Calvin. *The Art of the Narrative Exposition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006. ISBN: 0801012902

Robinson, Haddon W. and Torrey W. Robinson. *It's All in How You Tell It: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003. ISBN: 0801091500

Each Annotated Analysis is to be 2-3 pages, single-spaced. An annotated analysis is not a book review, but should answer the following questions:

- a. What is a summary of the book and its purpose?
- b. What are the strengths of the book for expository preaching?
- c. What are the weaknesses of the book regarding expository preaching?
- d. What are the applications and implications of the book for expository preaching in the 21st century?

All three Annotated Analyses should be postmarked by April 6, 2009. Please mail to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114.

2. Each student will prepare 5 (five) expository sermon briefs from *The Epistle of James*. One sermon brief is to originate from each chapter in James for a total of 5 (five). The sermon briefs are to follow the template of the one-page sermon brief attached to the syllabus. The sermon briefs are also to reflect a common theme selected by the student. **Students are to postmark the 5 briefs by April 13, 2009. Please mail to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114.**

In addition to the 5 sermon briefs, each student will expand one of the briefs and preach a 20-25 minute expository sermon during the seminar to be evaluated by Dr. Echols and the seminar participants. (Assignments listed below). **Students will preach their sermons during the class sessions of the seminar.**

3. Each student will write an annotation of each of the chapters in John MacArthur's, *Preaching: How to Preach Biblically*. The annotations shall consist of three summary sentences, one sentence giving the strength of the chapter essay, and a one sentence concerning a weakness or a counter argument. The annotation should be an exact total of five sentences. The annotations should be postmarked by **April 13, 2009** and mailed to **Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114**.

Post-Seminar Assignment:

Each student will write a 10-12 page, single-spaced, paper outlining a **Strategy for the Practice of Expository Preaching** in the student's ministry context. The student is to focus on his personal philosophy of expository preaching. The paper should include a thorough methodology for giving the Bible a voice to speak to the lives of the student's parishioners. The paper should incorporate interaction with at least 20 articles from *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators* edited by Haddon Robinson and Craig Larson. The articles should be properly footnoted as in Turabian 11:26. At least six other sources should be cited. These sources may be course texts or other books or periodicals. The bibliography should include the articles listed in proper form along with the other sources that were utilized. In addition, an appendix to the paper should include a 3-month expository preaching plan, incorporating two sermons per week and utilizing either August – October, 2009 or January – March, 2010 as the three-month time block. The preaching plan must list sermon title, sermon text, ETS or CIT, and Proposition or ESS for each sermon. Students are expected to incorporate insights gleaned from textbook readings and seminar discussions. **Strategy papers must be postmarked by June 8 and mailed to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114.** Note: All students will be expected to follow Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6th ed.) with regard to form and style, especially footnotes. Two exceptions are that students may write in first person on this assignment and that it is to be single rather than double spaced.

Directed Study Students

1. Each student will complete in the following manner all of the Pre-seminar and Post-seminar Assignments listed above:
 - A. Annotated Analysis of all three books postmarked to Dr. Echols no later than April 6, 2009. Please mail to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114.
 - B. Sermon Briefs from James must be postmarked by April 20, 2009. Directed study student will send a DVD of their fully developed sermons along with the sermon briefs. The sermon will be shown in the seminar and evaluated by the students and Dr. Echols.

- C. The annotations of John MacArthur's *Preaching: How to Preach Biblically* are to be postmarked by April 13, 2009. Please mail to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114
- D. The Strategy paper assignment as stated above must be postmarked by June 8, 2009. Please mail to Dr. Steve Echols, 304 Brookhaven Way, Canton, Ga. 30114

- 2. In addition to all of the above assignments, DS students will interview a contemporary pastor who is a practicing expositor and write an 8-10 page (typed, double-spaced) **Reflection Paper** of the interview. Reflection Papers should include, but not be limited to, practical insights from the pastor's practice of exposition, struggles faced by the pastor in doing exposition in the contemporary church, and valuable lessons gleaned from the interview. **The Reflection Paper should be postmarked by June 8, 2009 and mailed to address above.**

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignment 1-	25%
Assignment 2-	35%
Assignment 3-	10%
Post-seminary Assignment -	30%

The additional assignment for Directed Study Students will be weighted according to the discretion of the professor.

Sermon Brief

A. Foundational Elements

1. **Sermon Title** (in quotation marks; headline capitalization style): “Every Christian’s Assignment”
2. **Text:** Matthew 28:19-20
3. **Central Idea of the Text (CIT) or Essence of the Text in a Sentence (ETS)** [A past-tense statement interpreting what the text meant in its historical context.] Jesus commanded every believer to make disciples of all people groups.
4. **Proposition or Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence (ESS)** [A present- or future-tense, one-sentence application of the CIT to the contemporary context]: Jesus calls us not only to come to Him but also to go for Him.
5. **Purpose or Thesis** [A brief statement of what the speaker specifically hopes to accomplish in the lives of the primary audience with this particular message on this particular occasion]: Hearers will intentionally share Jesus and be involved in disciple-making.

B. Formal Elements

Introduction: Brief paragraph of introduction.

The assignment Jesus had while on Earth is now every Christian’s assignment. Jesus saves us and then we are sent out as His followers to continue what Jesus started. The Great Commission is not the Great Suggestion. Our assignment is mandatory. Our assignment is three-dimensional. Consider the three dimensions of every Christian’s assignment.

Main Points:

- I. It is a Personal Assignment – (Matthew 28:19a) “Go”
 1. Jesus commanded every person to make disciples – “as you are going.”
 2. Sharing Jesus is our personal assignment.
- II. It is a Proportional Assignment – (Matthew 29: 19a) “Go and make disciples of every nation.”
 1. Jesus defined the limits of our assignment.
 2. The limit is that there is no limit – “all ethna.”
- III. It is a Practical Assignment – (Matthew 28:19-20) “Go and make disciples of every nation, baptizing them....teaching them.”
 1. Jesus simplified every Christian’s assignment – “them.”
 2. All of us have “thems” we can influence.

Conclusion: Brief paragraph of conclusion.

Rick Warren’s father’s last words – “Got to save one more for Jesus.”

C. Notes

1. The number of main 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 accompanied by the Scripture reference.
3. Write all sermon body main points in headline capitalization style (e.g., It is a Personal Assignment). Write all lesser points under the main points in sentence capitalization style (e.g., Sharing Jesus is our personal assignment)

Selected Bibliography

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