NOBTS 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.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The core value focus for the 2014-15 academic year is “spiritual vitality”.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an advanced exegesis course that gives consideration to text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis of the genre of Sermon on the Mount. The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying the text in teaching and preaching.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the background & exegetical meaning of Sermon on the Mount
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how the study of Greek enhances Biblical interpretation
3. Students should acquire the ability to translate and analyze the Greek text of Sermon on the Mount and apply this analysis to sound interpretation of the text

I. COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook
reviews, interaction with the setting of the text, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

II. TEXTBOOKS:
2. Scot McKnight, *Sermon on the Mount, in The Story of God Bible Commentary*
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*
4. Charles H. Talbert, *Reading The Sermon On The Mount: Character Formation And Decision Making In Matthew 5-7*

III. REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:
1. **Participation/Translation**: Students are expected to participate in the class sessions and are expected to be able to translate the texts to be covered each day in the class, including giving the grammatical locations. A **written copy** of this work will be required. (15%)

2. **Reading**: Students are expected to complete the reading of the books by McKnight and Talbert prior to the beginning of the workshop, with a written review to be submitted on each book at the beginning of the initial class period on Monday, July 6. The book review should be 2-4 single-spaced pages and include the following elements:
   1) Bibliographic Entry
   2) Statement of the Author’s Purpose
   3) Summary of the Contents
   4) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive? or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints when pertinent, or only one), and your overall evaluation of the book.
   
   A summary of the book by Bonhoeffer is due on the Friday after the workshop and should be submitted via e-mail (msolomon35@gmail.com) or on Blackboard. The review should follow the format given above regarding both length and content. (10% per review = 30% total)

3. **Final Exam**: A take-home final exam (more of an exegetical exercise than a formal final) will be handed out at the end of the workshop, with the final due **on or before August 3** and submitted via e-mail (msolomon35@gmail.com) or on Blackboard. (20%)

4. **Presentations**: Students will be assigned/choose groups and make presentations on one of the topics handed out in class for this purpose near the beginning of the workshop. The presentation will be either focused on the historical setting of the text or a modern application of the text. The presentation should be creative, communicating the information for a church-type setting. (10%)

5. **Research Paper**: Each student will prepare a research paper on a passage or topic in the Sermon on the Mount. The professor must approve the paper topic in advance (during the workshop itself). The paper will be 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced, plus a bibliography of the works consulted (not just the works cited). The grading of the paper will be based on the following considerations: Form/Style/Grammar = 10%; Bibliography = 20%; Organization of the paper = 10%; Logic Flow = 20%; Content (coverage of viewpoints, details, etc.) = 40%. The papers are due **three weeks after**
the end of the workshop (Aug. 3) and should be submitted via e-mail (msolomon35@gmail.com) or on Blackboard. (25%)

IV. THEOLOGICAL TOPICS FOR PRESENTATIONS: (SM = Sermon on the Mount)

1. Discipleship as defined in the SM
2. Jesus and the OT acc. to the SM
3. Mission/Ministry acc. to the SM
4. True Spirituality acc. to the SM
5. Relationships between material and Spiritual focuses in life
6. Proper Worldview acc. to the SM
7. Complexities of Sin acc. to the SM
8. Righteousness/Justice acc. to the SM
9. True Worship acc. to the SM
10. The Lukan emphases related to the SM
11. Forgiving Others according to the SM
12. Forgiveness from God versus of people
13. Dangers for Religious People acc. to the SM
14. Prayer/Communion with God acc. to the SM
15. Valid Religious Leadership acc. to the SM
16. Concepts of persecution acc. to the SM
17. Anxiety/worry in the Context of Discipleship
18. Discerning, Judging/Condemning, and "Fruit Inspecting" acc. to the SM
19. True Confession acc. to the SM
20. The Beatitudes in the OT, ITP, and SM

V. CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

DAY 1: Introduction to the course, Introduction to Matthew. Approaches to the Sermon on the Mount. Mt. 5:1-20, Lk. 6:17-26

DAY 2: Mt. 5:21-48, Lk. 6:27-35

DAY 3: Mt. 6:1-34, Lk 11:1-12

DAY 4: Mt. 7:1-29, Lk. 6:36-49

DAY 5: PRESENTATIONS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Sermon On the Mount: Sample Bibliography

Arnold, Eberhard, *Salt and Light*, 1967
Barclay, William, *The Old Law & the New Law*, 1972
Carson, D. A., *Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and His Confrontation with the World*, 2004
Davies, William David, *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1966
Davies William David, *The Setting of the Sermon on the Mount*, 1964
Dibelius, Martin, *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1940
Driver, John, *Kingdom Citizens*, 1980
Friedlander, G., *The Jewish Sources of The Sermon on the Mount*, 1969
Jeremias, Joachim, *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1963
Lambrecht, Jan, *The Sermon on the Mount: Proclamation and Exhortation*, 1985
Lamsa, George Maimishisho, *The Kingdom of Earth*, 1966
Luther, Martin, *The Place of Trust*, 1983
Palmer, Earl, *The Enormous Exception: Meeting Christ in the Sermon on the Mt*, 1986
Parker, Hanksins, *Earth's Greatest Sermon: A Practical Application of the SM*, 1973
Phillips, John, *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1965
Pinson, Ernest, *Some Revolutionary Teachings of Jesus In the Sermon on the Mount
Talbert, Charles H. *Reading The Sermon on the Mount: Character Formation and Decision Making in Matthew 5-7*, 2004
Weakley, Clare, *Happiness Unlimited: John Wesley's Commentary on the SM*, 1979
Weakley, Clare, *The Nature of the Kingdom: Wesley's Messages on the SM*, 1986