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.

Core Values
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values are emphasized, the primary focus for the 2015-2016 academic year is spiritual vitality. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the lens of spiritual vitality. Throughout this course students will be encouraged to consider how the core value of “spiritual vitality” impacts their development as Christian counselors being called to operate in the local church.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to Jesus’ teachings in parables. After an examination of introductory matters, the class time will be devoted to the interpretation of selected parables as they are found in the New Testament. This interpretation will include an examination of the use of the parables in the gospels, the life situation of the parables, an exegesis of the text, and the application of the parables for today.

Student Objectives
By the end of the class, the student will:

1. Understand the synoptic problem and its relationship to the interpretation of the parables.
3. Be able to interpret the parables according to their context and life situation.
4. Be challenged to apply the truths from the parables to their own lives.

Textbooks
The following textbooks are required:

The following textbooks are optional:


**Attendance**
The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. The class will adhere to the attendance policy stated in the catalogue.

**Course Requirements**
1. The student is required to read the assigned material **before** coming to class. For each parable studied, the student must read the section in Stein and Blomberg dealing with the parable. Students should take pertinent notes from the texts for the notebook. The reading log attached to the syllabus must be completed and turned in the last day of class to demonstrate the completion of this assignment.

2. Each student will prepare a modern day parable based upon one of the following parables: Weather Signs (Lk. 12:54-56), Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), Mustard Seed (Mk. 4:30-32). The student should be careful to be faithful to the original purpose and focus of the parable. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on **April 13th**.

3. Each student will write a parable brief concerning one of the following parables: Marriage Feast or Lost Sheep. The brief will contain an explanation of the context of the parable as found in the gospels, pertinent information concerning the situation in life, an exegesis of the parable, and the main point of the teaching as well as secondary points. The brief is due on **April 27th**. A five point late penalty will be assessed for every day late.

4. Each student will find a journal article about one of the parables to be discussed in class and write an article summary. The summary should be one page single spaced and should include a brief summary, strengths, and weaknesses of the article. The article review is due at the beginning of class Wednesday **April 27th**

4. The student will turn in class notes to be checked for completeness. The
notebook should contain notes from the texts and class and is to be turned in on the last day of class. The notebook will be returned to the student on the same day.

5. Each student will complete a take home final exam to be turned in by May 15th.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:
- 10% Class participation
- 10% Modern day parable
- 10% Class notebook
- 15% Journal article review
- 15% Take Home Exam
- 20% Reading log
- 20% Parable brief

Course Assignments

March 30
- Introduction to the course
- Synoptic problem
- Introductions to the Gospels
Stein, pp. 1-72; Blomberg, pp. 1-69 (must be read by the end of the first week)

Introduction to the Parables
- The Good Samaritan Lk. 10:25-37
- Parable of the Soils Mk. 4:1-9, 13-20
- Lamp Under a Bushel Mk. 4:21-23
- Parable of the Measure Mk. 4:24-25
Stein, pp. 72-81

The Great Supper Lk. 14:15-24
- Wedding Feast and Fasting Mk. 2:18-20
- Patch and Wineskins Mk. 2:21-22
- Mustard Seed Mk. 4:30-32
- Leaven Mt. 13:33
Stein, pp. 82-97

Weather Signs Lk. 12:54-56
- Divided House Mk. 3:22-27
- Hidden Treasure and the Pearl Mt. 13:44-46
- Unjust Steward Lk. 16:1-18
Stein, pp. 98-114

April 13th
Marriage Feast  Mt. 22:1-14
Gracious Father  Lk. 15:11-32
Gracious Employer  Mt. 20:1-16
Stein, pp. 115-129

Wheat and the Tares  Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43
The Great Net  Mt. 13:47-50
Sheep and Goats  Mt. 25:31-46
Lost Sheep  Luke 15:4-10
Lost Coin  Stein, pp. 130-147

The Two Debtors  Lk. 7:41-50
The Two Sons  Mt. 21:28-32
Faithful and Unfaithful Servants  Mt. 24:45-51
Ten Virgins  Mt. 25:1-13

April 27th

Rich Man and Lazarus  Lk. 16:19-31
Children in the Marketplace  Mt. 11:16-19
Talents and Pounds  Mt. 25:14-30
Unforgiving Servant  Mt. 18:21-35

Evil Tenants  Mk. 12:1-12
Pharisee and Publican  Lk. 18:9-14
Rich Fool  Lk. 12:13-21
Friend at Midnight  Lk. 11:5-13

May 11th

Theology of the Parables  Blomberg, pp. 289-323
### Reading Log

**Name:**

Please put the date you completed the reading assignments.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date (Read material for parables assigned for that date)</th>
<th>Stein</th>
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Selected Bibliography


For other suggested resources see the professor.