



PREA6220/6320 Preaching from the Epistles
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Fall 2021

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses preaching approaches to both the general and Pauline letters found in the New Testament. Attention is given to the form and function of epistolary material during the New Testament period, as well as to the implications of the backgrounds of the individual books for preaching. Special emphasis is given to sermonic developments of selected passages from the epistles. Prerequisite to entrance into this course is successful completion of *Proclaiming the Bible* (PREA 5300), *Biblical Hermeneutics* (BSHM 5310), and *Exploring the New Testament* (NTEN 5300).

* NOTE: This course is designed to help in the task of preaching from the New Testament epistles clearly, accurately, faithfully, and effectively. A theoretical base for this important dimension of biblical proclamation will be established. The student will preach in class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Identify the Pauline and General epistles, as well as their New Testament settings;
2. Determine the distinctive message and other aspects of each epistle;
3. Understand the concepts, methods, and resources for preaching from New Testament epistles in order to preach Bible messages which are exegetically accurate, hermeneutically sound, theologically oriented;
4. Value Christian theology in order to express the essentials of the epistles with clarity;
5. Analyze the use of concepts, methods, and resources in the actual preaching of New Testament epistles in order to relate doctrinal content and human need to each other in a vibrant, relevant manner;
6. Prepare a biblical sermon from a New Testament epistle at a rudimentary level which is clearly structured, and effective in application to contemporary life;
7. Apply knowledge and comprehension of basic concepts, methods, and resources to preach a biblical sermon at a rudimentary level with clarity, interest, and force in order to achieve a positive difference in the lives of the hearers; and
8. Offer and receive constructive evaluation with increased self-understanding.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Harvey, John D., *Interpreting the Pauline Letters: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2012.
Cheapest Price Found: <https://www.christianbook.com/> \$16.49

Bateman IV, Herbert W., *Interpreting the General Letters: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2012. Cheapest Price Found: www.amazon.com. \$29.99

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS

Bryson, Harold. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: B&H, 1995. **Out of print but on reserve in the library.**

Rummage, Stephen Nelson. *Planning Your Preaching: A Step-by-Step Guide for Developing a One-Year Preaching Calendar*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

Smith, Steven W. *Recapturing the Voice of God: Shaping Sermons Like Scripture*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2015.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. Lecture presentations and other methods will be utilized to teach the principles and methodologies of preaching, as well as to present various resources available.
2. Writing assignments and in-class student presentations will be required to facilitate experiential learning regarding the course content and objectives. Resource persons may be used to share experiences, as time permits.
3. Class and small-group discussions will be used to stimulate personal insights about preaching.
4. Conferences with the instructors are invited, in order to promote learning and application of course principles and concepts, and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or visits.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to do the following assignments:

1. **Epistle Background:** The student will research the background summary for a New Testament epistle of his or her choice from each of the following traditional categories:

- eschatological epistles
- prison epistles
- general epistles
- soteriological epistles
- pastoral epistles

The total length for these 5 summaries will be over 1000 words (double-spaced). This assignment will be graded on form (Turabian), clarity, accuracy, relevance, and style of expression (critical thinking). Be sure to consult at least four critical commentaries, 3 homiletical commentaries, and discuss options for authorship, date, place, historical/cultural context, recipients, genre, purpose, theological framework, etc.; student must state and support personal reasoning for each. Arrange paper using the five epistolary headings. **Due: Sept 9th**

2. **Epistle Presentation:** The Student will select **one epistle** not summarized above in **Course Requirement 1**, and develop a presentation (15–20 min.):

- a. Discuss options for authorship, date, place, historical/cultural context, recipients, genre, purpose, theological framework, etc. Personal positions must be stated and supported with internal and external evidence.
- b. Develop two outlines of the whole epistle. Exegetical outlines must be at least three levels deep in development (I, A, 1). Homiletical outlines must be at least two. (1, a; 2, a; 3, a)
 - The first outline will be an **exegetical outline**—interpretive in nature; based upon grammatical-syntactical, rhetorical, and social analysis; reflects the significance of ideas in

context; and includes summary statements of sections.

- The second outline will be a **homiletical outline**—based upon exegetical outline, contains a central idea/main idea for each section to be preached, written with an audience in mind, will be the foundation for Sermon Briefs in Assignment #3 below.
- c. Student will analyze the preaching of selected epistle in the published (written, audio, or video) messages of at least three sermons (not lectures, articles, or books) by one preacher.
- d. Student may distribute notes, outline, use PowerPoint, media, etc. To avoid duplication, the student will notify the professor of his choices. In the case of duplication, it will be “first come, first serve.”
- e. Students enrolled in PATH6320 (three-hour component) must include a two-page annotated bibliography of selected resources relevant to their selected epistle. **Choices Due: August 24th. Presentation Begin: Oct 14th**

3. Sermon Series Calendar and Sermon Briefs: The student will prepare a preaching calendar (at least one quarter) for preaching through the selected epistle above from **Course Requirement 2**. The calendar should include dates, series titles, sermons titles, and biblical references; consider and include holidays, special days, and days of denominational emphases. Student will develop sermon briefs—

- Students enrolled in PATH6220 (two-hour component) must submit **three** sermon briefs.
- Students enrolled in PATH6320 (three-hour component) must submit **five** sermon briefs.

Each sermon brief must be one page and developed from an exegetical outline, both of which will be submitted with each sermon brief. The student must use the sermon brief form included in the syllabus.

Due: Nov.18th

4. Preaching: The student will preach one sermon in class from the epistle chosen in **Course Requirement 2**. The message should be 20–25 minutes in length. A manuscript will be submitted to the professor prior to the student’s date of delivery. The student should be prepared on that day to answer questions from the class and/or professor about his exegesis, preparation, interpretation, understanding, and homiletic form. Copies of the sermon manuscript and sermon brief will be provided for each classmate by the student *prior to* the sermon delivery. **In-Class Messages Begin: Nov. 2**

- a. The message should reflect a thorough exegesis of the biblical passage used as the basis, should be characterized by hermeneutical accuracy, and exhibit the best use of the principles of effective development and delivery appropriate to the sermon-type selected.

5. Peer Evaluation: Each student will complete a sermon evaluation form for each of the students who preach. He will hand it to the preacher at the end of the class period. When evaluating that day’s preacher, the student should be helpful, not hurtful; constructive rather than destructive; aware of strengths as well as areas for needed improvement; and reflect an attitude of humility and teachability at all times.

Evaluation of Grade

All student-learning outcomes will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and examination. Student participation and behavior in class and small-group discussions will also be factors in evaluation and grading.

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

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Class Participation, Attendance, and Peer evaluations | 15% |
| • Epistle Background Summaries | 20% |
| • Epistle Preaching Presentation | 20% |
| • Epistle Sermons Series, Calendar, and Sermon Briefs | 25% |
| • Preaching | 20% |

Technical Assistance

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

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

Policies:

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to follow Turabian 8th edition. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2015-2016 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments: Students should consult the current NOBTS Catalogue for the Seminary policy on class absences. When emergencies exist, the student may petition the Academic Advisor for permission to remain in class with excessive absences. Students also are reminded that being tardy to class can result in absences being recorded (three times tardy will be recorded as one class period absence) and that students, **not the professor**, are responsible for having their presence in class recorded on the class roll when they are tardy in attendance.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the day due. Those assignments turned in past the date and time due will incur an initial late penalty of **ten** points followed by an additional point each day it is late, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. **Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the date due** without permission.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Disclaimer

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when they reasonably think that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

In Case of a Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

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.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Week	Date	<i>Pauline Epistles Harvey</i>	<i>General Epistles by Bateman</i>	Topic	Assignment Due
1	8/17	Class Introduction, Syllabus Overview			
	8/19			Preaching the Epistles	
2	8/24	Ch. 1-3		Begin Pauline Epistles	Epistle Presentation Choice
	8/26	Ch. 4-5			
3	8/31				
	9/2				
4	9/7	Ch. 6-7			
	9/9				Background Summaries
5	9/14				
	9/16		Ch. 1-2	Begin General Epistles	
6	9/21		Ch. 3-5		
	9/23				
7	9/28		Ch. 6-7		
	9/30				
FALL BREAK OCTOBER 10/4-10/8					
8	10/12				
	10/14			Epistle Presentation	
9	10/19			Epistle Presentation	
	10/21			Epistle Presentation	
10	10/26			Epistle Presentation	
	10/28			Epistle Presentation	
11	11/2			Student Sermon	
	11/4	EHS at Truett			
12	11/9			Student Sermon	
	11/11			Student Sermon	
13	11/16			Student Sermon	
	11/18			Student Sermon	Sermon Calendar and Briefs
THANKSGIVING WEEK					
14	11/30			Professor Sermon	
	12/1				
15	12/	FINALS WEEK			

Bibliography

Additional Textbooks

- Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching With Variety: How to Re-Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Bailey, James, and Lyle Vander Broek. *Literary Forms in the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
- Capes, David, Rodney Reeves, and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Carter, Terry, Scott Duvall, and Daniel Hays. *Preaching God's Word*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.
- Cox, James, Ed. *Biblical Preaching: An Expositor's Treasury*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors, 3d ed.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Long, Thomas. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Fortress, 1989.
- Pate, Marvin, Scott Duvall, Daniel Hays, Randolph Richards, Dennis Tucker, and Preben Vang. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Richards, E. Randolph. *Paul and First-century Letter Writing*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994.
- Stenger, Werner. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Thompson, James W. *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

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. CIT (Main Idea of the **biblical Text** in a Sentence--state in the past tense):

5. Proposition (present tense statement of the Main Idea of the **Sermon** in a Sentence; do not state in the past tense):

6. Objective (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: Each point must include at least 3 **Functional Elements** with subpoints used to describe the elements of explanation, argumentation, application, and illustration.

I.

- 1.
- 2.

II.

- 1.
- 2.

III.

- 1.
- 2.

Conclusion

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

D. 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).