



PREA6301 The Art and Craft of Preaching

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Pastoral Ministries Division

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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 preaching course considers the nature of preaching and the enhanced development of sermon construction through the study of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. The course will expand the introductory principles of reasoning—deduction and induction; emphasize the importance of specific elements from classical rhetoric—means of persuasion; argumentation, and figures of speech—to the sermon development process; and enhance the students understanding, appreciation, and usage of language in the sermon.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course you should be able to demonstrate:

1. Understanding of the arts of Logic, Rhetoric, and Grammar and the ability to improve sermon development by utilizing these arts.
2. Appreciation of language to a greater degree as the preacher's primary instrument of communication.
3. Ability to implement the skills learned in the Art of Preaching through guided sermon assembly.

Required Textbooks

Martineau, John. *Trivium: The Classical Liberal Arts of Grammar, Logic, & Rhetoric*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2016.

LaRue, Cleophus. *I Believe I'll Testify: The Art of African-American Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011.

Required Digital Text

Whitefield, George. *The Selected Sermons of George Whitefield*, Grand Rapids: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, no publication date given. Accessible and Downloadable at the following link. <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/whitefield/sermons.html>.

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 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. Group exercises/projects involving an analysis of sermons for the presence of course content.
5. Conferences with the instructor are invited, in order to promote learning and application of course principles and concepts, and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office visits.

Course Requirements

A. Readings/Assignments: (20%)

Due: See Course Schedule

Each student will read the required textbooks and submit an integrative analysis for the book by **LaRue**. The assignment is to be double-spaced and four to five pages in length, involving the following components: (1) summary of the contents of the book, including strengths and weaknesses, (2) discussion of five key insights concerning the art of preaching, (3) List of author's recommendations to improve the art of preaching and how the students plans to implement these recommendations. The integrative analysis must employ formal style according to Turabian, regarding cover page, margins, pagination, footnotes, headings/subheadings, etc. No first person allowed. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcome #2.*

The assignment due for *Trivium* by **Martineau** will be divided into three separate submissions. Each assignment will comprise of the following: (1) 2-page evaluation of the importance of the contents as it relates to the art of preaching. (2) Outline of major and minor terms within each section. Definitions of each term must be included. Each section is to be turned in by the due date listed in the course schedule below. The student will submit three sections: Book II, Book IV, and Book V. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 & #2*

B. Initial Sermon: (10%)

Due: 8/22

The student will submit a sermon manuscript on the second day of class. The sermon can be a previously composed and preached sermon. The sermon must contain formal, foundational, and functional elements. The sermon will serve as a baseline for assessing student comprehension and implementation of content. The student will compose a second sermon on the same text as part of **Assignment E**. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcome #3.*

C. Mid-Term: (15%)

Due: 10/10

The student will complete a mid-term exam. A study guide will be given to the students. The mid-term will test the students on the content of the first 8 weeks and the application of the content. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2 & #3.*

D. Sermon Case Studies: (20%)

Due: 11/28

The student will submit four sermon case studies. Two of the case studies will be on sermons by George Whitefield and two will be on sermons by a preacher of the student's choosing. The sermons by Whitefield are available through the required Digital Text. The case studies will include the following elements:

1) **Grammar**– at least one page of analysis. The student will identify and qualify parts of speech, types of clauses, types of sentences.

2) **Logic**– student will identify the overall form of reasoning of the sermon and identify the logical flow of the sermon. The flow of reasoning within the sermon will be noted through evaluating the content, identifying key words, and summarizing the arguments.

3) **Rhetoric**- identify three means of persuasion within the sermon, plot the arrangement of the sermon, and classify at least eight figures of speech in the sermon.

Whitefield #43 will be discussed as an example. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 & #3.*

E. Preaching Project: (35%)

Due: 12/5 by 4pm

The preaching project for this course will be a comprehensive assignment that measures the progress of the student in relation to the art of preaching. The project consists of several assignments which are listed below.

1. Manuscript Revision of the assignment **B. Initial Sermon**. The Revision will keep the same foundational elements (text, subject, title) of the sermon, but the student must revise the formal and functional elements. The revision should be an integration of the concepts from the course along with an explanation of why the student chose to make the changes.

The explanation should include: 1) What has been changed, 2) Why the student chose to make the changes. The revision must include one paragraph of grammar analysis, a description of the overall form argumentation of the sermon (deduction, induction, etc.), and the identification of the means of persuasion along with at least four schemes and four tropes (figures of speech). The manuscript should be at least 10-12 pages with explanations included within the manuscript. Please accentuate the explanation of the revisions by using bold or italicized font.

2. Implementation of the material from the three books in the Trivium (**See Assignment A**). The material is to be developed in a form that the student can utilize for future sermon improvement and evaluation. Such forms are notecards, flashcards, wall graphics, flow charts, etc....
3. Completed final exam that includes the following:
 - 1) Written Submission of the final exam document provided by professor
 - 2) Six to Eight-page, double spaced document including the following:
 - a. Significant transferable concepts and principles from the course,
 - b. List of at least three preachers who you consider “preaching artists.” They can be preachers you have studied/will study. Please include a one paragraph biography, place of ministry, and why you think they are preaching artists.
 - c. Annotated Bibliography of at least four resources that supplement the books used in this course.

This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2 & #3.

Course Evaluation with Assignments

A. Two Textbook Assignments	20%
B. Sermon A	10%
C. Mid-Term	15%
D. Sermon Case Studies	20%
E. Preaching Project	35%

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 Canvas. 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 this syllabus.

2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed 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.

If you are taking this class as a Traditional Student, please note the following attendance policies:

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Late Assignments:

Assignments turned in past the date and time due will incur a late penalty of 5 points, per day, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the date due without permission from the professor. Assignments must be properly submitted in Canvas.

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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

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.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
1 (Aug. 15)	Syllabus, Introduction to Course, Grammar: Parts of Speech	
2 (Aug. 22)	Grammar: Parts of Speech	Submission of Sermon A
3 (Aug. 29)	Grammar: Phrases, Clauses, Sentences.	<i>Trivium—Book II</i>
4 (Sep. 5)	Logic: Introduction to Reasoning	
5 (Sept. 12)	Study Day	
6 (Sept. 19)	Logic: Deduction and Induction	<i>I Believe I'll Testify</i>
7 (Sept. 26)	Propositions	Whitefield #43 <i>The Almost Christian</i>
(Oct. 2-6)	Fall Break	
8 (Oct. 10)	Logic: Fallacies	<i>Trivium—Book IV</i> Mid-term due by Oct. 10
9 (Oct. 17)	Rhetoric: Means of Persuasion & Five Canons	
10 (Oct. 24)	Rhetoric: Species & Epicheireme	
11 (Oct. 31)	Rhetoric: Figures of Speech	<i>Trivium—Book V</i>
12 (Nov. 7)	Rhetoric: Figures of Speech	
13 (Nov. 14)	Illustrations and Audience Analysis/OSS	
(Nov. 20-24)	Thanksgiving Break	
14 (Nov. 28)	Exercises using Content	Sermon Case Studies
15 (Dec. 5)	Final Project Due	Tuesday, Dec. 5, by 4pm

***The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).**