



## **PREA6316 Preaching from Historical Narrative Literature**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Church Ministries Division**

**Spring 2023  
NOLA2U Flex**

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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 the historical and narrative books of the Old Testament and the Book of Acts in the New Testament. Special attention is given to sermonic developments that reflect the structure of narrative literature; the development of theological, ethical, and biographical sermons; as well as approaches to dealing with law, ceremony, and civil instructions. Limited attention is dedicated to critical matters.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. apply their knowledge of OT themes, theology, and history from historical-narrative texts to preaching and teaching within the local church; and
2. apply their knowledge of the theological teachings from the historical-narrative books to the interpretation the NT.

### **Textbooks**

Matthewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2021.

Walton, Benjamin H. *Preaching Old Testament Narratives*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2016.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

1. Lectures (augmented with Power Point, DVD, and online video segments) will clarify the principles and methods of exegesis, hermeneutics, and homiletics, as well as various resources available.
2. Writing assignments will facilitate experiential learning and critical thinking.
3. Team presentations will develop collaborate learning and creativity.
4. Class and small-group discussions will be used to stimulate personal insights.

## **Course Requirements**

**1. Book Reviews:** Complete analytical reviews of Matthewson's and Walton's books. Each review should be 2-3 pages single-spaced with parenthetical references, include a one-page summary of the book, followed by contributions of the book and insights gleaned that will be helpful for preaching narrative texts.

**Due: February 14**

**2. Research Worksheet:** Provide detailed answers to the following questions, discussing the various topics, answers, and issues associated. Answer all the questions and address all issues specifically noted in the question/description. The complete worksheet should be 20-25 pages double-spaced in length, using correct Turabian format with footnote references.

**A) What is narrative and how do we interpret it?** What are the characteristics of narrative? What are different interpretive approaches to narrative? How does this conversation inform our understanding of biblical narrative? What are hermeneutical considerations for preaching historical narrative literature?

**B) How do we relate to and preach Christ from Old Testament passages?** Discuss the Christ-Centered preaching debate, explain your position, give a defense of your position, and outline your approach to preaching Christ from/in Old Testament passages.

**C) How do we deal with difficult Old Testament texts?** Each student is to select a difficult Old Testament passage, approved by the professor, of historical-narrative literature to study. The student is to provide a brief description as to how one should approach/handle difficult passages; analyze the specific OT text; discuss the difficulty associated with the passage; work through the appropriate and best process for analysis of that specific passage; give an interpretation of the specific passage; and provide a sermon brief from the specific passage (the brief will also be included as part of the final sermon portfolio assignment).

**D) Background Study:** Provide a background study for the OT book your passage is taken from and from which your sermon series for your portfolio will be taken. The background study should include the following: authorship, date, occasion for writing, genre, setting, theological contributions, and other important issues.

**Due: March 28**

**3. Devotion Presentations:** Each student will preach an 18-20 minute devotion from narrative literature in the Bible for evaluation and critique. The student will submit a sermon brief to Canvas prior to preaching the devotion. The devotions will be graded according to the sermon brief and presentation to the class. The devotion will be one of the sermons submitted for the sermon portfolio.

**Due: April 4, 11, or 18**

**4. Sermon Portfolio:** Each student will submit a sermon portfolio. The sermon portfolio will include 6 sermons from one Old Testament book of historical-narrative literature

chosen by the student. Of the 6 sermons submitted, 4 of the sermons will be submitted only in sermon brief form. 2 of the 6 sermons will be submitted in full manuscript form, including full sermon briefs. The biblical book chosen by the student will be the OT book on which the background study was done in assignment 2.D. One of the 6 sermons from the portfolio will be used for the devotion presentation in-class. The student will be partnered by the professor with other students to give feedback and critiques of the 5 remaining sermons (not delivered in class) over the course of the semester. At the end of the semester, the student is to submit the entire portfolio, including the 6 sermons in their previously unedited version (before feedback from other students) and their later edited versions (after feedback from other students).

**Due: May 2**

**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. 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.

**Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Book Reviews	15%
Research Worksheet	25%
Devotion Presentations	20%
Sermon Portfolio	30%

**Attendance Policy –**

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.

## Technical Assistance

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

1. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
2. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas.nobts.edu](http://Canvas.nobts.edu) / [nobts.instructure.com](http://nobts.instructure.com).
4. [Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.
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).

## 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

January 17	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Review of Foundations of Preaching
January 24	Discussion on Narrative
January 31	Discussion on Hermeneutical Considerations for Old Testament Narrative
February 7	Discussion on Hermeneutical Considerations for New Testament Narrative

February 14	<b>Book Reviews Due</b> Discussion on Books
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Mardi Gras: No Classes</b>
February 28	Discussion on Preaching from Biblical Books
March 7	Course Lectures/Discussion
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Spring Break: No Classes</b>
March 21	Course Lectures/Discussion Student Sermon Feedback (Sermon 1)
March 28	<b>Worksheets Due</b> Discussion on Worksheets Student Sermon Feedback (Sermon 2)
April 4	Student Devotions Student Sermon Feedback (Sermon 3)
April 11	Student Devotions Student Sermon Feedback (Sermon 4)
April 18	Student Devotions Student Sermon Feedback (Sermon 5)
April 25	Course Lectures/Discussion
May 2	<b>Preaching Portfolio Due</b>

### Selected Bibliography

#### Spiritual Vitality and Preaching

Bennett, Arthur, ed. *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2001.

Bounds, E. M. *Power Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

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- Piper, John. *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals*. Nashville: Broadman, 2002.
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