



**BSNT 8301/PMPR8303 Doctor of Ministry Seminar  
Preaching the New Testament: The Book of Revelation  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
May 12–14, 2025  
Mon. 1:00-9:00 pm, Tues. & Wed. 8:00am-4:00pm**

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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 seminar centers on preparing expository sermons and deriving homiletical values from selected portions of the New Testament. The work is aimed at providing a model upon which students can establish an effective life-discipline of study and sermon preparation. The exegetical part is normally taught by a New Testament professor and the expository section by a preaching professor. This course may be repeated as long as a different New Testament text is being studied.

The specific focus of this seminar is on the Book of Revelation.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Show competence in the various issues and features of Revelation studies.
2. Demonstrate the ability to interpret selected portions of Revelation.
3. Demonstrate the ability to prepare and deliver a sermon on a Revelation text.

**Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Group Discussion
- Assigned Reading
- Presentations
- Assessment of Other Students' Presentation

**Required Texts**

Bandy, Alan S. and Benjamin L. Merkle, *Understanding Prophecy: A Biblical-Theological Approach*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2015.

DeSilva, David A. *Discovering Revelation: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. Discovering Biblical Texts. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021.

Gorman, Michael J. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2010.

McKnight, Scot and Cody Matchett, *Revelation for the Rest of Us: A Prophetic Call to Follow Jesus as a Dissident Disciple*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023.

Stewart, Alexander E. *Reading the Book of Revelation: Five Principles for Its Interpretation*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2021.

## **Seminar Requirements and Assignment**

### **Pre-Course Work**

#### ***Reading and Talking Points***

Read the books by Bandy/Merkle, deSilva, Gorman, McKnight/Matchett, and Stewart. Create a list of talking points for each book. The talking points may be bullet points and can include questions, critiques, observations, reflections, quotes, or anything you would like to discuss. Be sure to include page numbers to the respective books in your talking points.

These talking points will guide our discussion in the seminar.

Submit the talking points to Canvas by **Sunday, May 11, 11:59 pm**. You may compile the talking points into one document to submit them. Be sure to bring your talking points to the seminar meeting.

#### ***Develop a Sermon Manuscript on a Selected Revelation Passage***

Choose a pericope from Revelation and develop a sermon manuscript. You may choose any passage of interest. The passage should be contextually complete so it must be more than a couple of verses. Give special attention to the themes, theology, purpose, and presentation of the material in Revelation as a whole and how it relates to your passage. Give attention to any genre features.

Submit the sermon manuscript to Canvas by **Sunday, May 11, 11:59 pm**.

### **During Course Meeting**

#### ***Talking Points and Discussion***

Students are required to attend all three meetings (either online or in person) and participate in class discussion.

The discussions will focus on the textbooks as well as from the Book of Revelation. The students will be expected to use their talking points to discuss their thoughts related to the readings.

#### ***Preaching John's Revelation***

Each student will preach the sermon they prepared prior to the course. The sermon should be no more than 20-25 minutes long. While it was written as a manuscript, preaching the manuscript is not required.

### ***Peer-review and discussion***

After each sermon, the students and professors will offer feedback of the sermon. It is not a sermon delivery seminar so the feedback should primarily focus on the content of the message, the interpretation of the text, and other discussions related to the passage.

### **Post-Work**

#### ***Sermon Study and Series***

The student will write a summary overview of **the Book of Revelation**. The summary outline should be in bullet note form and must include interpretive aspects related to the genre, imagery, symbolism, theology, and its historical context. The idea is to sift through the various views and discussions about the various options before determining your personal conclusions regarding the matter. You can use bullet notes to highlight various views and document the sources using parenthetical or footnote references.

Each student will complete the following assignment.

- a. Students must develop a **6-8** week series for preaching through a particular portions of Revelation.
  - Sermon series examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - *The Opening Vision of Jesus* (chap. 1)
    - *The Seven messages to the Seven Churches* (chaps. 2–3)
    - *Worship around the Throne* (chaps. 4-5)
    - *The Series of Sevens* (seals, trumpets, bowls)
    - *The Interludes* (chaps. 7, 10–14)
    - *The Judgment of Babylon* (chaps. 17–18)
    - *The Marriage feast of the Lamb and the Return of Christ* (chap. 19)
    - *The Millennium and Final Judgement* (Rev 20)
    - *The New Creation and New Jerusalem* (Rev. 21–22)
  - These sermon outlines should cover sermons that will be preached in the future, NOT sermons the student has already preached. The student must submit: (1) a one page overview of the series, including texts, titles, and summaries of each sermon; (2) a completed **Sermon Brief** for each sermon to be preached (the form of Sermon Brief is provided in the syllabus); (3) study notes (exegetical and homiletical) from one of the sermons in the series; and (4) a 1-2 page single-spaced Selected Bibliography of resources useful for the preacher as he/she implements this preaching plan in his/her ministry.

The Sermon Series must be submitted to Canvas by **Sunday, June 30, by 11:59 pm**.

### **Class Policies**

#### **1. Attendance and Class Participation**

As noted above, attendance and class participation are necessary for meeting the requirements of this class. Students are expected to be attentive and prepared for each class session. Rude or disruptive behavior is also not permitted.

## **2. Late Work**

Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval of the professors. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professors.

## **4. Plagiarism**

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. Remember the words of the proverb: *“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out”* (Prov. 10:19).

### **Technical Assistance**

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

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:canvas@nobts.edu)- Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System.
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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.

### **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.

**Syllabus Schedule: TBD**

**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, **but not a sentence**):
4. CIT (Central Idea of the Text--state in the **past** tense):
  
5. Proposition (Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence-- state in the present or future 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.

Body (This is a guide for form; the sermon isn't required to include all enumerated main or subpoints.)

I.

- 1.
- 2.

II.

- 1.
- 2.

III.

- 1.
- 2.

Conclusion

- 1.
- 2.

**C. 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).

