

PREA5300 - Proclaiming the Bible

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Pastoral Ministries

Jacksonville Extension

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Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of the 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.

Description of the Course

“We believe that the Bible is the Word of God in the highest and fullest sense, and is the unrivalled authority in determining the faith and practice of God’s people; ...”

- *NOBTS Articles of Religious Belief*, Article I: Sole Authority of Scriptures

This is a foundational course which considers the nature of preaching, principles of sermon construction, resources for preaching, methods of sermon preparation and delivery, and problems and issues of the preaching ministry. While students are exposed to a variety of approaches to sermon development, primary emphasis is given to the expositional process which undergirds the preaching event.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This year, the seminary is focusing on the core value of **Spiritual Vitality**. What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This course will specifically address the competencies of:

Biblical Exposition - to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately

Christian Theological Heritage - to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church

Disciple Making - to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth

Spiritual and Character Formation - to provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion

Worship Leadership - to facilitate worship effectively

Student Learning Objectives

Christian proclamation of the Bible plays an essential part in the spread of the Gospel and Christianity. While Jesus mandates all Christians to carry out the Great Commission as witnesses, not all are called to preach or are involved in a preaching ministry. However, this course can help anyone who communicates the Word of God (e.g., teaching, writing, witnessing) and those who listen to preaching. Therefore, the listed learning objectives will apply to all students in this course.

By the end of the course, the student will:

1. Apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the following ideas to communicating the Bible accurately: the scope of the preaching ministry, principles of sermon organization and preparation, critical issues encountered in the preaching ministry, the nature of preaching,

principles of sermon construction, resources for preaching, methods of sermon preparation and delivery, and issues and problems of the preaching ministry.

2. Value:

- the role of the Holy Spirit in sermon planning, development, and delivery.
- the discipline of sermon planning and development.
- the expositional process in the preaching event.

3. Accomplish these tasks:

- Use the expositional process.
- Prepare an expository sermon.

Course Methods

Methodology will include (but is not limited to):

1. Lectures which will present the principles and methods of preaching.
2. Assigned readings which will summarize principles, perspectives.
3. Class and small-group discussions which will be used to stimulate personal insights. Resource persons may be used to share experiences.
4. Writing assignments which will facilitate experiential learning of the course content and objectives.
5. Audios, videos, and web streaming which will be used to demonstrate examples.

Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or personal visits. Even informal conferences can stimulate learning and application of course principles and concepts.

Course Textbooks

The following textbooks are **required** (will be cited in various class lectures and used in weekly readings, assignments, and tests):

The Bible

Duduit [DID way], Michael, ed., *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1992.

Vines, Jerry, and Jim Shaddix. *Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

Course Requirements

The student is required to complete each of the following at a level of quality appropriate for master's degree program work:

1. **ASSIGNED READINGS & QUIZZES:** Each student is responsible for completing weekly assigned readings from the course textbook *Power in the Pulpit* by Vines and Shaddix. Each session, he/she is expected to be prepared to take a brief quiz from the session's assigned reading, usually at the beginning of the session. No make-up quizzes will be offered.
2. **READING ASSIGNMENT:** Each student will submit a typed, **single-spaced** analysis of five (5) chapters in the course textbook *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. He/she will select chapters in the following manner:

One chapter from Part III – Preparing the Sermon (Ch. 11-21)	1
Two chapters from Part IV – Preaching and the Biblical Text (Ch. 22-31)	2
One chapter from Part VI – Preaching and the Ministry (Ch. 35-41)	1
One chapter from Part VII – Preaching to the Needs of People (Ch. 42-47)	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>5</u>

For each chapter, identify the chapter number and title in a subheading, then concisely (but adequately) discuss:

- A brief summary of the chapter (first paragraph)
- Two (or more) strengths or helpful points of the chapter which challenged or provoked your thinking about the preaching ministry (second paragraph)
- One specific way the reading of this chapter will impact your preaching or teaching ministry (third paragraph – **first person allowed here only**)

Each chapter should be covered in about 1 page. A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder. No bibliography is necessary. **DUE Session 7 (Nov. 17).**

3. **FINAL EXAM:** Each student will take a final exam in accordance with the course schedule. This exam will be composed of material covered during class lecture and assigned readings as indicated by the professor.

4. **EXPOSITORY SERMON PROJECTS:** These assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font, and citing appropriate original sources per current Turabian format. **A hard copy of each assignment will be submitted to the professor at the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned.** A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder. Coherence, clarity, relevance, form, style, accuracy, and freshness of expression will be included as a part of the evaluation of these assignments.

a. **ESP #1:** Write an **Analysis Paper** of **James 1:1-12**. **DUE Session 4 (Oct.6).**

i. Begin with a section titled “Personal Observations of the Passage.”

- This will include an initial personal paraphrase of the passage based on reading the passage **OUT LOUD** from **at least 5 translations**.
- State the apparent central idea of the text (CIT) and unifying theme.
- List the apparent emphases of the passage. These will include initial observations about the passage gleaned from reading the **ENTIRE BOOK** from at least 5 translations.
- List initial questions you have about the meaning and nature of the passage.

ii. The second section will reflect a “Critical Study of the Passage” (consult **at least 4 critical background commentaries**).

1. “Background of the Book and Passage” should include:

- A background study of the book discussing options for *authorship, *date, *place, historical / cultural context, *recipients, genre, *purpose, theological framework, and *relation of passage to context.
- For these background elements (*), include evidence for each major option and finally your personal conclusions and rationale for each conclusion.

2. Develop a single-page, personally developed textual “Outline of the Book” (three levels deep), tied directly to the text itself, and indicating chapter and verse references.

3. In the third part, titled “Exegesis and Exposition of the Passage,”

- a. Conduct an exegesis of James 1:1-12 (refer to *Power in the Pulpit*, 105-20); examine each individual verse, clause, phrase, or legitimate group of verses.
 - b. Develop an exegetical outline of the pericope that includes the text being examined (interpretive in nature) based upon syntactical analysis, reflecting the significance of ideas in context, and demonstrating a direct relationship to your textual outline of the book and author's intended purpose. Consult necessary language (grammar and syntax) tools.
- iii. In the third section, entitled "Resulting Interpretation of the Passage,"
1. Propose an improved paraphrase of the passage based upon your exegetical and critical analysis.
 2. Propose a more accurate central idea of the text (CIT) and unifying theme of the passage.
 3. List the major emphases of the passage based upon the critical study.
 4. Provide the answers to the initial questions raised about the passage.
 5. List the hermeneutical principles necessary to a proper interpretation and application of the passage, with specific examples from the text itself.
 6. Provide "message implications," listing implications of the entire book for sermonic themes and possible applications, comparing devotional and pastoral commentaries (see *Power in the Pulpit*, 120-25).
- iv. Include a "Selected Bibliography" for a critical study of James, including at least:
- 4 critical commentaries,
 - 2 homiletical commentaries,
 - 1 devotional commentary,
 - 1 Testament survey,
 - 1 systematic theology book,
 - 1 Bible dictionary,
 - 1 Bible encyclopedia,
 - 2 word study/language tools, and
 - 1 online source.

The **Analysis Paper** should be 12-15 pages in length (not including Selected Bibliography).

- b. **ESP #2:** Write an expanded deductive **Sermon Brief** from James 1:1-12. In addition to formal and functional elements, write out your introduction, summation, and invitation word-for-word exactly how you would say them. On a separate page, include a Sermon Outline following the format given by the professor. Include an updated bibliography. **DUE Session 5 (Oct. 20).**
- c. **ESP #3:** Each student is to select any narrative pericope from **Joshua 1-8, 14, 23-24**. Write an inductive **Sermon Manuscript** for your message from the Joshua narrative text. Write out word-for-word exactly how you expect to preach the message. Obviously, this manuscript should reflect adequate expositional process and underlying expositional principles that you gleaned from the earlier **ESP's**. On a separate page, include a Sermon Outline following the format given by the professor. Include a bibliography. **DUE Session 7 (Nov. 17).**

Evaluation

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and examinations. Student participation, attitude, and behavior in class will also be considered in the evaluation of the course objectives and grading.

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

1. Quizzes (Total Grade)	10%
2. ESP #1: Analysis Paper	25%
3. ESP #2: Sermon Brief	15%
4. ESP #3: Sermon Manuscript	20%
5. Reading Assignment	15%
6. Final Exam	15%

Late Assignments

A typed and printed hard copy of each assignment is due to the professor **at the beginning of the class session** on the assigned due date. Assignments turned in **past the due date** will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will **not be accepted more than seven (7) days past the due date** without permission from the course professor. However, students are reminded that some points for assignments submitted late are better than no points for assignments not submitted.

Disclaimer

Remember that this class is a master's-level course, and master's-level work is expected. As such, an **A** grade conveys that a student has done exceptional work. If a student does good work, but not excellent, the grade will be a **B**. Average work earns a grade of **C**. Work not commensurate with a master's level degree program will earn a failing grade.

Flexibility is a critical attitude for effectiveness in both ministry and our personal walk. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude in the event things change. The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

Course Schedule

Session	Date	<i>Power in the Pulpit</i> Vines / Shaddix	Session Topics	Assignment(s) Due
<i>(Listed reading should be completed PRIOR to the class meeting in order to be prepared for quizzes and to enhance discussion during the session)</i>				
1	8/25	p. 17-43	Introduction & Overview Preaching Foundations	
2	9/8	p. 45-87	History of Preaching The Preacher of the Bible	
3	9/22	p. 91-125	Biblical Exposition	
4	10/6	p. 127-199	Crafting the Sermon	ANALYSIS PAPER DUE
5	10/20	p. 201-226	Writing the Sermon	SERMON BRIEF DUE
6	11/3	p. 229-290	Preaching Style & Sermon Delivery	
7	11/17	p. 291-353	Sermon Delivery After the Sermon Planning a Preaching Calendar	SERMON MANUSCRIPT DUE READING ASSIGNMENT DUE
8	12/1		Contemporary Issues in the Preaching Ministry	FINAL EXAM

*** SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION ***

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR PREACHING

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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- Carson, D.A. *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Owen, John. *Overcoming Sin & Temptation*. Edited by Kelly M. Kapic and Justin Taylor. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006.
- Piper, John. *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals*. Nashville: Broadman, 2002.
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- Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
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Schreiner, Thomas. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.

Stein, Robert. *Difficult Passages in the Epistles*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

Stenger, Werner. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

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History of Preaching

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