

Introduction to Preaching–PMCM 2300-01
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NOBTS mission statement: The mission of NOBTS is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of sermon construction. As a basic course in homiletics, attention is given to understanding the biblical definition of preaching, the history of preaching, practical aspects of sermon preparation, various resources for sermon development, and learning how to plan for regular preaching opportunities based on challenges related to a contemporary preaching ministry.

Course objectives:

1. To acquaint the student with general information about the nature and practice of preaching.
2. To give the student an understanding of the origins and development of preaching.
3. To show the student the relationship between communication theory and preaching.
4. To help the student develop an understanding of the connection between hermeneutics and homiletics and that connection's importance.
5. To acquaint the student with various resources available for sermon preparation and preaching.

Course requirements:

- a. Each student will read and be familiar with the textbook: **Steps to the Sermon.** By H.C. Brown, Jr., H. Gordon Clinard, and Jesse J. Northcutt. Revised by Al Fasol. (ISBN 0-8054-1238-7)
- b. Each student will prepare an introduction to the Epistle of I John. This paper will be 4-5 pages in length and should include a discussion of authorship, date of writing, persons addressed, place from which written, occasion for writing, aim(s), prominent teachings and a general outline. Five commentaries (minimum) should be used and at least two should be "critical" commentaries.
- c. Each student will read or listen to five sermons and present a critique of each sermon based on the steps to the sermon developed in class.

d. Either using the library or going on-line, locate a periodical devoted to preaching. Read an article from the periodical and write a one paragraph summary. Identify the author of the article, and summarize the article.

e. Prepare five sermon briefs from I John. The brief should include a text, title, introduction, outline, and conclusion.

f. Class work will include team projects of preparing sermons on the entire book of I John, outlining the text book, and presentations of sermon briefs.

Course outline:

I. Definition of preaching; history of preaching, prominent preachers of the past

a. development of the form

b. examples

c. five great centuries of preaching

d. biblical basis of preaching

II. Classification of sermons

III. The development of the sermon idea

a. probing question, textual summary, and sermon objective

b. unifying words; construction

c. major divisions

d. content

IV. Finishing the sermon idea

a. introduction

b. conclusion

c. transition

d. title

V. Style and imagination

VI. Related matters

a. delivery

b. planned preaching

c. variety in preaching

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