



BSNT 8301/PMPR8303 Doctor of Ministry Seminar
Preaching the New Testament: The Gospels
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
May 6–8, 2024
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 Gospel genre.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

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

Required Texts

Burridge, Richard A. *Four Gospels, One Jesus? A Symbolic Reading*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Pennington, Jonathan T. *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Stein, Robert H. *The Method and Message of Jesus' Teachings*. Revised ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994.

Bryson, Harold T. *Expository Preaching: the Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Seminar Requirements and Assignment

Pre-Course Work

Reading and Talking Points

Read the books by Burridge, Pennington, Stein, and Bryson. 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 5, 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 Gospel Passage

Choose a Gospel pericope and develop a sermon manuscript. You may choose a parable, narrative, or teaching passage from one of the Gospels. The passage should be contextually complete so it must be more than a couple of verses. Give special attention to the evangelist (Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John) as to his themes, theology, purpose, and presentation of Jesus. Give attention to any genre features.

Submit the sermon manuscript to Canvas by **Sunday, May 5, 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 three books as well as from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The students will be expected to use their talking points to discuss their thoughts related to the readings.

Preaching the Gospels

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 Gospel passage.

Post-Work

Sermon Study and Series

The student will write a summary overview of **each of the four gospels**. The summary outline should be in bullet note form and must include the name of the gospel, name of the writer, date when written, place where written, recipients, occasion/purpose, theological contributions, outline of the gospel, and sources consulted. 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 portion of Gospel literature.
 - Sermon series examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - *The Sermon on the Mount*
 - *The Birth Narratives*
 - *The Encounters with Christ* (Nicodemus, Woman at Well, etc.)
 - *The Farewell Discourse*
 - *The Passion Week*
 - *The Parables of Jesus*
 - *The I Am Statements*
 - *The Miracles of Jesus*
 - *The Signs in John*
 - *An Overview of Mark*
 - *The Kingdom of God and Jesus*
 - 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 - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.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.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. 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).

