

[NTEN5322 SERMON ON THE MOUNT](#)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall 2019

Dr. Jimmy Dukes, Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek

CONTACTS

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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.

**COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND
CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED**

The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to examine and understand the English text of the Sermon on the Mount and to motivate them to learn and practice analysis of the text and the presentation of the text in a sermon or teaching context. Students will learn to use the available tools for this process.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with "doctrinal integrity" and "characteristic excellence" especially highlighted in this course.

The highlighted core value for the 2020 academic year is Spiritual Vitality.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course seeks to increase the student's competency in "biblical exposition."

Course Description

These offerings consist of a thorough study of selected New Testament books or passages through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and consultation with major literature and commentaries. The course emphasizes proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat this course if the individual biblical books or passages being studied are not duplicated. Prerequisites: BSHM5310 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics and NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- A. Knowledge
 - a. Know the background material for the Gospel of Matthew
 - b. Know the major approaches to the interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount
 - c. Understand the message of the Sermon on the Mount as it applied in the first century and as it applies in the present day
- B. Attitudes
 - a. Accept the teachings of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount as principles for living
 - b. Grow in spiritual understanding of the message of Christ
 - c. Desire to learn better the other biblical material
- C. Skills
 - a. Interpret the message of the Sermon on the Mount through sound exegetical principles
 - b. Develop biblical sermons and/or Bible lessons from the text of the Sermon on the Mount

TEXTS

- A. The primary texts for the course will be the English text of the Sermon on the Mount in two modern translations of the New Testament.
- B. John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*
- C. Charles H. Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount: Character Formation and Decision Making in Matthew 5–7* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992)
- D. D.A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: And His Confrontation with the World*
- E. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Touchstone, 1995)
- F. Other tools will be introduced during the course and you will have the opportunity to purchase them as desired.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Make sure you have access to Blackboard before the class begins.

To access Dr. Dukes' notes on Blackboard. . .

Once you have logged onto Blackboard, click on the link for Course Documents. You should see the links for the documents. To simply access and print the notes, click on the link for the document you want to access (it may take a few moments for it to appear) and click on the print icon on your toolbar. You also may download and save the notes.

Blackboard instructions: **Coming Later**

Instructions for working in the context of the Blackboard format will be provided in the second week of class when the professor has had a chance to review changes with the ITC staff.

To upload assignments for the professor and teaching assistant only. . .

If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to be in touch with the professor or ITC on campus.

Student Responsibilities

- **Personal Introduction:** Each student will compose a concise paragraph personal introduction for posting on the Discussion Board before the end of the first week of class, which is Aug. 24. In this introduction, include the following:
- *Picture if available:* recent picture (head shot, about 2x2.66 inches = 144x192 pixels)
- *Personal:* family, hometown, college attended
- *Professional:* work and ministry experience
- *Pursuits:* hobbies, activities, and other avocation pursuits
- *Favorites:* list of favorites (favorite food, movie, book, Christian author, etc.)
- *Spiritual:* conversion experience and current church setting

ONLINE ETIQUETTE:

- **Course Nature:** *Please take care to note that this online course is not a blog in which you may say anything you wish, no matter how mean-spirited, biased, or offensive.* Posting in this class is not talk-show bashing based on mindless ideology or shock-jock flaunting of social norms and decency. Every student will be held to the highest standard of courtesy and manners in all online activities, but most especially in posts in threaded discussions. You will show the highest respect for your fellow students and for the course instructor. You also will not disparage others, including public or political figures. The instructor especially will not tolerate grandstanding for any particular political party or ideology.
- **Communication Issues:** In addition, students should be aware of the following important issues related to online communication.
- **Communication Limitations.** At the practical level, recognize that the online learning environment has only very limited communication ability. Online communication shows no body language, no inflection, no emotional level, etc. The limitations of online communication render clear communication hazardous. That limitation is why electronic

emoticons were invented, but use these only sparingly. Just because you put a smile after a mean or offensive comment does not make that comment suddenly nice. In addition, at the beginning of the semester be slow to attempt to make a joke or type something that is meant only in jest. More often than not, these types of comments are easily misunderstood until everyone gets to know everyone else better later in the semester.

• *Cardinal Rules.* Most importantly, always remember the following two cardinal rules of seminary posting:

(1) *Never question a poster's motives.*

(2) *Never question a poster's Christian commitment.*

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to involve the seminary's Dean of Students for any perceived violations of decent online etiquette.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- **Conduct:** All students are expected to maintain the highest code of conduct in honesty and integrity for this online class. The student should submit only material that represents his or her own personal work in the course. The student must cite all words and ideas that are not original but are derived from other sources, including but not exclusive to, verbal, visual, print, electronic, and Internet resources. While one would think such matters are understood, typical instructor experience cautions against assuming students are clear that:
- No other person, such as a tutor, friend, or family member should complete any portion of any assignment.
- No assignment should be submitted in which a reviewer or proofreader has made extensive revisions to the wording, grammar, or style.
- No assignment should be copied in part or in whole from another student and passed off as one's own.
- No Internet resource for posting class materials to be downloaded and turned in as one's own should be used for any part of this online course.
- **Violations:** Violations of academic honesty and integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Students' office for processing. Failure to report known violations of this code of conduct will be held as culpable as the violation itself and turned over to the Dean of Student's office for processing.
- **Confidentiality:** The online environment potentially can be brutally devastating. The student should be careful to preserve confidentiality in personal, ministerial, and professional experiences. The student should make no post or comment in which the details of the post would allow someone without much effort to determine to whom or to what one might be referring if the original context was confidential. The student also should be careful not to disclose personal information shared between students in private email, text messages, phone conversations, and other means that would be injurious to self-esteem or would compromise a student in an on-going personal, ministerial, or professional relationship.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Assignments

1. **Students will read and review** *The Cost of Discipleship* (SCM Classics) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The reviews must be Turabian style and are due **by the end of Fall Break.**
2. **Students will watch the posted video in Blackboard before each weekly assignment.**
3. **Students will then read** the assigned text of the Sermon on the Mount in two translations of the New Testament and **the corresponding material** in the professor's notes, John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount* and Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount: Character Formation and Decision Making in Matthew 5–7* before doing the work of each Unit.
4. Each student **will write an exegesis and a Sentence Outline for the passages assigned on blackboard in each Unit.**
5. **The final exam for the course will be a written sermon or Bible study on a passage from one of the Unit assignments of the student's choice. The length should be 5-6 pages single space in 12-point type.**
6. The student should **begin** with a brief paragraph giving an overview of his or her understanding of the message Jesus communicated in the passage.
7. The sermon/Bible Study should include the following:
 - a. An introduction setting the passage in the context of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount and introducing the message to its readers/listeners.
 - b. A main body of exegesis and application. The student should wrestle with the text and write the paper from his or her own perspective with the **support** of sources discovered.
 - c. **Choose your sources from the notes and commentaries from the course and other resources you have access to. Sources should be balanced between commentaries, notes, dictionaries, study Bibles, articles from journals, and Internet sources. Do not use more than one devotional commentary and do not use notes from more than one study Bible or the Internet. Sources should be cited with the use of Turabian style footnotes or parenthetical references.**
 - d. A bibliography of **sources used** in the paper, presented in Turabian style, should be at the end.
8. **You are invited to an introductory BlueJeans meeting on Tuesday night, August 20. I cannot require you to come, but I do encourage you to come for the orientation to the syllabus, the course, and your fellow students.**
9. **You are also invited to a voluntary Blue Jeans meeting on Monday**

evening Nov 11at 7:00 pm to discuss the exam procedure.

Course Grading

- The book review will count as 20% of the student's final grade.
- Class participation will count as 10% of the student's final grade.
- The weekly Exegesis/outlines will count as 40%
- The sermon/Bible Study will count as 30% of the student's final grade.

Please remember that a grade of "A" means 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."

ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Instructions	Biblical Texts, professor's notes, Talbert, and Stott
Blue Jeans Introductory Meeting August 20, 7:00 pm CST	Introduction to course and students	Be sure to read the syllabus before the meeting.
Unit 1: Aug 19-24	Read the Intro material in the professor's notes, Talbert, and Stott plus the text of Mt 4:12-5:2	
Unit 2: Aug 26-31	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matthew 5:3-12	Read the material relating to MT 5:3-12 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 3: Sep 2-7	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt:5:13-26	Read the material relating to MT 5:13-26
Unit 4: Sep 9-14	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt 5:27-37	Read the material relating to MT 5:27-37 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 5: Sep 16-21	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt 5:38-48	Read the material relating to MT 5:38-48 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 6: Sep 23-28	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt6:1-15	Read the material relating to MT 6:1-15 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 7: Sep 30-5	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt 6:16-24	Read the material relating to Mt 6:16-24 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 8: Oct 7-12	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt	Read the material relating to Mt 6:25-34 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 9: Oct 14-19	FALL BREAK NO CLASS	Book Reviews due Oct 21
Unit 10: Oct 21-26	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt 7:1-14	Read the material relating to Mt 7:1-14

Unit 11: Oct 28-Nov 2	Exegesis/Outline assignment (See #4 under Assignments above) Matt 7:15-28	Read the material relating to Mt 7:15-28 Dukes, Stott, Talbert
Unit 12: Nov 4-9	Assign Exam	
Unit 13: Nov 11-16	Voluntary Blue Jeans Meeting to discuss Final Exam Monday evening, Dec. 11 at 7:00pm CST	
Unit 14: Nov 18-23	Catch up on assigned work and work on Final	
Nov 25-30	THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS
Dec 1-7	You are invited to a voluntary Blue Jeans Meeting on Monday Dec 2 at 7:00 pm to discuss the Exam procedure Exam Due 11:59 pm CST December 6	Complete Exam and catch up

Selected Bibliography

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- Dibelius, Martin, *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1940
- Driver, John, *Kingdom Citizens*, 1980
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- Parker, Hankins, *Earth's Greatest Sermon: A Practical Application of the SM*, 1973
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- Weakley, Clare, *Happiness Unlimited: John Wesley's Commentary on the SM*, 1979
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