



BSOT8301 EXPOSITORY PREACHING FROM THE OT MINOR PROPHETS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies & Church Ministry Divisions

Fall 2024

Traditional Class & NOLA2ULIVE

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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 the Minor Prophets (aka The Book of the Twelve). The work is aimed at providing a model upon which students can establish an effective life-discipline of study and sermon preparation in the Minor Prophets.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence in using the principles of biblical hermeneutics within the prophetic genre (historical & literary context; genre analysis; word studies; and content analysis)
2. Create exegetical information necessary as the pre-work for homiletical exposition.
3. Organize a series of exegetical–expository sermons from selected Minor Prophet book studies.
4. Compose a complete sermon (manuscript) that indicates integration and characterization of sound exegetical–homiletical principles.

Textbooks

Required Biblical Studies Text:

Shepherd, Michael B. *A Commentary on the Book of the Twelve: The Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2018.

Additional Optional Biblical Studies Texts:

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1989.

Vangemeren, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990.

Required Homiletical Text:

Stevenson, John. *Preaching from the Minor Prophets to a Postmodern Congregation*. Hollywood, FL: Redeemer Publishing, 2008.

Additional Optional Homiletical Texts:

Smith, Gary V. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets as Preachers*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.

Phillips, John. *Exploring the Minor Prophets: An Expositional Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2002.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Directed studies undertaken by the students.
2. Guided lecture, critical thinking, and group discussion.
3. Presentations (papers or slides) modeling the components for both biblical studies and homiletics.
4. Employment of online group meetings via the Internet to facilitate needed seminar work.

Course Requirements

1. Read the required textbooks completely. Due by October 7, 2024.
2. Bring devotionals from the Minor Prophets to begin each class meeting. (Use slides—no more than 5 minutes). Sign-ups will be forthcoming in the detailed schedule (Canvas).
3. **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** Utilize slides to present the historical occasion of one of the Minor Prophets. Engage at least five scholarly sources and cite as needed. Do your best to ascertain why the prophet framed his content in the light of his context. This presentation should allow us to recognize the relevance of both the human condition as well as the contextual similarities facing proclaimers of God's Word, starting with them in their setting and continuing to our contemporary cultural context. Plan for 20 minutes (max) for your presentation. Please sign up for one book in particular; first come first serve via the Canvas Shell (a shared, interactive document). Due during the seminar meeting.
4. **MODELS OF PREACHING THE MINOR PROPHETS:** Investigate and report on how one significant American or British preacher preached from the Minor Prophets. Via a slide presentation, show how your chosen preacher's series, sermons, or topics addressed the message(s) of the Minor Prophets. Assess the value, showing the relevance of doing something similar in the contemporary church. (20 minutes). Please designate your preacher; first come first serve via the Canvas Shell (a shared, interactive document). Due during the seminar meeting.
5. **SERMON SERIES FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS:** Each student will complete a **Sermon Series** consisting of six **SERMON BRIEFS** (single-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt. font, Turabian [*utilizing attached Sermon Brief Form*]) from the Minor Prophets. Be sure to use sound exegetical foundations for preaching (i.e., historical background, literary structure, content analysis, and homiletical skills).

Each student will defend one Sermon Brief from this series when it is presented and critiqued in the seminar.

The Sermon Series can consist of one sermon from each of the first six or the last six books of the Minor Prophets.

The Series could be arranged in recognition of the dates of the prophetic books, especially striving to work with those from the same century. Or you may design the series from selected passages in one Minor Prophet (the longer ones, such as Hosea, Amos, Micah, or Zechariah) or from several of the shorter Minor Prophets. A total of six Sermon Briefs is required. (For example, use the four chapters in Jonah or Malachi and add two Briefs from the two chapters in Haggai; or use three from Joel or Zephaniah and three from Nahum or Habakkuk).

Each student will provide a brief Introduction to the Sermon Series indicating a name for the Series, stating the purpose of the series, and explaining the reasons for the selection of the particular book(s) and passages included in the Series. The completed Sermon Series is due on November 4, 2024.

6. **FULL SERMON MANUSCRIPT:** Submit a manuscript from one of the above sermon briefs. Each student will develop it into a full **Sermon Manuscript** (6-8 page, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt. font, Turabian formatted).

Although an Exegetical Paper on the selected passage for the Sermon Manuscript is not a required assignment for the course, the Explanation Section of the Sermon Manuscript should reflect the fact that a thorough exegesis of the selected text has been done.

The Functional Elements of Explanation, Illustration, Application, and possibly Argumentation should be included in the Sermon Manuscript along with transition statements.

An Invitation indicating desired response from the congregation should be included.

A brief introductory paragraph should explain the place of the selected text for the full Sermon Manuscript in the overall Sermon Series. **The Sermon Manuscript is due on November 11, 2024.**

7. Present and defend your sermon brief in class. (20 minutes plus critique)

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. This course will require daily attendance for all the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are not allowed to miss ProDoc workshop class time. Exceptions can be only granted by the Graduate Dean office.
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a seminar session.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Participation	10%
2. Textbook Reading	10%
3. Historical Background	15%
4. American/British Preaching Models	15%
5. Sermon Series	25%
6. Presentation and Defense of One Sermon Brief	10%
7. Full Sermon Manuscript	15%

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 or My.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 (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Fulfilling the Terms of the Syllabus

No student will receive a passing grade in this course if all major assignments are not completed. Failure to submit any major assignment will result in failure of the course. A letter grade drop per day results for any work not submitted on time! Moreover, the professors reserve the right to refuse any work submitted later than seven days after the due date.

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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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.

Course Schedule

September 3 Tuesday 1-9 (See the detailed Canvas schedule.)

1:00-3:45

4:15-7:00

September 4 Wednesday 8-4

8-11

1-4

September 5 Thursday 8-4

8-11

1-4

Selected Bibliography

Old Testament Theology

- Anderson, Bernard W. *Contours of Old Testament Theology*. Fortress, 1999.
- Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. SCM, 1999.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Fortress, 1997.
- _____. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. Fortress, 2008.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Fortress, 1986.
- Eichrodt, W. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961.
- Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology*. Volume One. "Israel's Gospel". InterVarsity Press, 2003; Volume Two. "Israel's Faith". InterVarsity Press, 2006; Volume Three. "Israel's Life." InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Hasel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Eerdmans, 1995. Fourth edition.
- House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. IVP, 1998.
- Kaiser, W.C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1978.
- Martens, Elmer A. ed. *Old Testament Theology*. Bibliographies, No. 13. Baker, 1997.
- Ollenburger, Ben C., Elmer A. Marten, and Gerhard F. Hasel, eds. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study*. Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Sailhammer, John H. *Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Zondervan, 1995.
- Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Broadman & Holman, 1993.
- Terrien, S. *The Elusive Presence: Toward a New Biblical Theology*. Harper and Row, 1978.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. ed. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book by Book Survey*. Baker, 2008.
- Von Rad, G. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Harper and Row, 1967.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Zondervan, 2007.
- Zimmerli, Walther. *Old Testament Theology in Outline*. John Knox, 1978.
- Zuck, Roy B., ed. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Moody, 1991.

Old Testament Commentaries

Shepherd, Michael B. *A Commentary on the Book of the Twelve: The Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2018.

Hosea

Andersen, Francis I. and David N. Freedman. Hosea. AB. New York: Doubleday, 1980.

Davies, G.I. Hosea. NCB. Eerdmans, 1992.

Garrett, Duane A. Hosea, Joel. NAB. Broadman & Holman, 1997.

Hubbard, David A. Hosea. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1989.

Macintosh, A.A. Hosea. ICC. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1997.

Mays, James L. Hosea. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary*. Vol. 1: Hosea, Amos. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Smith, Gary V. Hosea, Amos, Micah. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2001.

Stuart, Douglas. Hosea Jonah. WBC. Waco: Word Books, 1987.

Wolff, Hans W. Hosea. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974.

Joel

Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Baker, David W. Joel, Obadiah, Malachi. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2006.

Barton, John. Joel and Obadiah. OTL. Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Coggins, Richard James. Joel and Amos. NCB. Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Crenshaw, James L. Joel. AB. Garden City: Doubleday, 1995.

Finley, T.J. Joel, Amos, Obadiah. WEC. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Garrett, Duane A. Hosea, Joel. See above under Hosea.

Hubbard, David A. Joel and Amos. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1989.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary*. Vol. 1: Hosea, Amos. See under Hosea.

Stuart, Douglas. Hosea Jonah. See under Hosea.

Wolff, Hans W. Joel and Amos. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Amos

Andersen, Francis I. and David N. Freedman. Amos. AB. New York: Doubleday, 1989.

Carroll R., M. Daniel. Amos-The Prophet and His Oracles: Research on the Book of Amos. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Coggins, Richard James. Joel and Amos. NCB. Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Finley, T.J. See above under Joel.

Hubbard, David A. See above under Joel.

Jeremias, Jörg. The Book of Amos. OTL. Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Mays, James L. Amos. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary. Vol. 1: Hosea, Amos. See under Hosea.

Paul, Shalom. Amos. Hermeneia. Fortress, 1991.

Smith, Gary V. Hosea, Amos, Micah. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2001.

Smith, G.V. Amos. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Stuart, Douglas. Hosea Jonah. See under Hosea.

Wolff, Hans W. See under Joel.

Obadiah

Allen, Leslie C. The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah. See above under Joel.

Baker, D.W., T.D. Alexander, and B.K. Waltke. Obadiah, Jonah, Micah. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1988.

Baker, David W. Joel, Obadiah, Malachi. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2006. See under Joel.

Barton, John. Joel and Obadiah. OTL. Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Finley, T.J. See above under Joel.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary. Vol. 2: Obadiah, Habakkuk. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

Stuart, Douglas. Hosea, Jonah. See under Hosea.

Wolff, H.W. Obadiah and Jonah. Augsburg, 1985.

Jonah

Allen, Leslie C. The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah. See above under Joel.

Alexander, T.D., D.W. Baker, and B.K. Waltke. Obadiah, Jonah, Micah. See above under Obadiah.

Bruckner, James. Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2004.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary. Vol. 2: Obadiah, Habakkuk. See under Obadiah.

Sasson, Jack M. Jonah. AB. Garden City: Doubleday, 1990.

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Stuart, Douglas. Hosea Jonah. See under Hosea.

Trible, Phyllis. Rhetorical Criticism: Context, Method and the Book of Jonah. Fortress, 1995.

Wolff, H.W. Obadiah and Jonah. See above under Obadiah.

Micah

Allen, Leslie C. The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah. See above under Joel.

Andersen, Francis I. and David Noel Freedman. Micah. AB 24E. Doubleday, 2000.

Barker, Kenneth L. and Waylon Bailey. Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. NAC. Broadman & Holman, 1999.

Hillers, Delbert R. Micah. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.

Mays, James L. Micah. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976.

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Smith, Gary V. Hosea, Amos, Micah. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2001.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1984.

Waltke, Bruce K. A Commentary on Micah. Eerdmans, 2007.

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Nahum

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Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. *NICOT*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. See above under Micah.

Habakkuk

Baker, David W. Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. See above under Nahum.

Barker, Kenneth L. and Waylon Bailey. Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. *NAC*. Broadman & Holman, 1999. See under Micah.

Bruckner, James. Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. *NIVAC*. Zondervan, 2004. See under Jonah.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward (ed.). *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary*. Vol. 2: Obadiah, Habakkuk. See under Obadiah.

Roberts, J. J. Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. See above under Nahum.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. See above under Nahum.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. See above under Micah.

Zephaniah

Baker, David W. Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. See above under Nahum.

Barker, Kenneth L. and Waylon Bailey. Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. *NAC*. Broadman & Holman, 1999. See under Micah.

Berlin, Adele. *Zephaniah*. *AB*. Doubleday, 1994.

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Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. See above under Nahum.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. See above under Micah.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Zephaniah: A Commentary*. *Hermeneia*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Haggai

Baldwin, Joyce G. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1972.

Boda, Mark J. Haggai, Zechariah. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2004.

Meyers, Carol L. and Eric M. Meyers. Haggai, Zechariah 1–8. AB. New York: Doubleday, 1987.

Petersen, David L. Haggai, Zechariah 1–8. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.

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Taylor, Richard A. and E. Ray Clendenon. Haggai, Malachi. NAC 21A. Broadman & Holman, 2004.

Verhoef, Pieter A. The Books of Haggai and Malachi. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

Wolff, H.W. Haggai. Atlanta: Augsburg, 1988.

Zechariah

Baldwin, Joyce G. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. See under Haggai.

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Klein, George L. Zechariah. NAC 21B. B & H Publishing, 2008.

Meyers, Carol L. and Eric M. Meyers. Haggai, Zechariah 1–8 (vol. 1); Zechariah 9–14 (vol. 2). Garden City: Doubleday, 1987, 1993. See above under Haggai.

Petersen, David L. Haggai, Zechariah 1–8. See under Haggai. Zechariah 9–14 and Malachi. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. See above under Micah.

Malachi

Baker, David W. Joel, Obadiah, Malachi. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2006. See under Joel.

Baldwin, Joyce G. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. See under Haggai.

Hugenberger, Gordon P. Marriage as a Covenant: Biblical Law and Ethics as Developed from Malachi. Baker, 1998.

Petersen, David L. Zechariah 9–14 and Malachi. See above under Zechariah.

Smith, Ralph L. Micah, Malachi. See above under Micah.

Verhoef, Pieter A. The Books of Haggai and Malachi. See above under Haggai.

Homiletical Resources

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. *Preaching from the Minor Prophets: Texts and Sermon Suggestions*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998.

Blackwood, Andrew W. *Preaching from Prophetic Books*. Nashville: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1951.

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Leggett, Donald A. *Loving God and Disturbing Men: Preaching from the Prophets*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2003.

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Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.

Ward, James and Christine Ward. *Preaching from the Prophets*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Amazed: Restoring an Attitude of Wonder and Worship* (OT Commentary: Minor Prophets). Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2010.

Yates, Kyle M. *Preaching from the Prophets*. Nashville: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1953.

SERMON BRIEF

Rhetorical Sermon Outline

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):
4. ETS (Essence of the Text in a Sentence--state in the past tense):
5. ESS (Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence--also called the Proposition/Thesis; do not state in the past tense):
6. OSS (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 (Short paragraph)

Body (Include **Functional Elements** [in abbreviated form or bullet points]:

Explanation [most space], Illustration, and Application [and possible Argumentation] for each major point.)

I.

1. (May or may not have sub points)
- 2.

II.

- 1.
- 2.

III.

- 1.
- 2.

Conclusion (Paragraph)

Invitation (Statement as to how it will be extended for desired response)

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).
3. Write all sermon body main points in headline capitalization style (e.g., The Motive of Salvation). Write all lesser points under the main points in sentence capitalization style (e.g., The personal motive). State points of message in terms of listeners. Strive for Homiletical/Rhetorical Outline rather than Exegetical/Bible Study Outline.