

EXPOSITORY PREACHING FROM GENESIS 12-50
BSOT8301 Professional Doctoral Seminar
September 2-4, 2025

Professors: Dr. Corey Barnes
Dean of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor of Old Testament
NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126
(800) 662-8701; cbarnes@nobts.edu

Dr. Mark Tolbert
Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry
NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126
(800) 662-8701; mtolbert@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to 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 Old 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 Old Testament professor and the expository section by a Preaching professor. This course may be repeated as long as a different Old Testament text is being studied.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have:

1. Gained a mastery of the historical background of Genesis 12-50.
2. Completed an exegesis of a selected passage from the English text of Genesis 12-50.
3. Developed a broad understanding of the text through exegetical and homiletical commentaries on Genesis.
4. Learned to appreciate the value of Old Testament narrative for preaching.
5. Developed sermons from Genesis 12-50 that will incorporate the results of exegesis as well as application and interpretation in light of the contemporary setting.

Course Teaching Methodology

The lectures by the professors will provide the basis for background and movement from subject to subject within the seminar. Assigned topics and scriptural passages will be designed to sharpen the student's knowledge and skills in important areas of study in Genesis 12-50. Dialogue and discussion during the seminar will enhance the learning experience. Small group interaction will also be employed.

Seminar Requirements:

1. Each student will read the two required Ross, Allen P. textbooks:

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing, A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*.

Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1996. Note: Parts 1 and 3 are required reading.

Matthews, Kenneth A. *Genesis 11:27-50:26. New American Commentary*. Nashville: Holman, 2005.

2. Each student will prepare a Background Brief on an assigned critical issue or major theme from the Book of Genesis. The topic will be assigned by the professors. The Brief must reflect use of the two required texts/commentaries plus two (2) other texts/commentaries of choice. The Background Brief is to be 6-8 pages in length, double-spaced. Each student will make a 20-30 minute verbal presentation of the Background Brief during the seminar. The Background Brief is to be submitted on Canvas no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 1, 2025. Students are responsible for downloading or copying other student's papers for their use in the seminar.
3. Each student will prepare an Exposition from an assigned text in the Book of Genesis. The text will be assigned by the professors. The Exposition must reflect use of the two required texts/commentaries plus two (2) other texts/commentaries of choice. The Exposition is to be 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced. Each student will make a 30-45 minute verbal presentation of the Exposition during the seminar. The Exposition is to be submitted on Canvas no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 1, 2025. Students are responsible for downloading or copying other student's paper for their use in the seminar.

Note from Dr. Tolbert: Exposition is presenting, explaining, or expounding a text of Scripture, usually involving commentary and interpretation. The Exposition paper is not to be a sermon. It is material that one could use to develop sermon(s). It is where you explain, argue, apply and illustrate the material at hand. As stated above, you are to use as references the two assigned commentaries and two additional commentaries. However, be sure that any direct quotes are footnoted and limit the number of block quotes. Also, be sure to include your interpretation of the textual material. I don't just want to know what the commentaries say. It's like when you "expound" in a sermon, you use commentaries for the foundation, but you also tell the listeners how you interpret the text and how it applies to their lives. Remember that Genesis is Old Testament narrative. Truths, principles, applications, and implications must be drawn from the story. Think of it this way -- if I were completely unfamiliar with that passage of Scripture, and I read your Exposition, when I finished, would I be able to understand that text, what it meant in its context, and how it applies to my Christian journey now?

4. Each student will submit a Final Paper, due on or before October 23, 2025. Papers are to be submitted on Canvas. Choose one (1) of the following options:

Option 1: Prepare a series of eight (8) sermons from the Genesis 12-50 composed around a common theme. (Example: The Future is Now, A Strategy for Change, etc.) A one-page Sermon Brief is to be prepared for EACH sermon in the series, following the Sermon Brief form attached at the end of the syllabus. In addition to the 8 Sermon Briefs, the student will write a 3-page, double-spaced, Personal Perspective of preaching a series of expository sermons, to include the following components:

- a. A working definition of expository preaching
- b. A rationale for preaching a series of sermons from a Bible book.
- c. A strategy for how to preach a series of sermons in a local church setting.

Option 2: Write an 10-12 page double-spaced research paper on a biblical theme or background issue relevant to interpreting and expositing the book of Genesis. The paper should include a minimum of 8 sources including the two required textbooks for the course.

Evaluation of Grade:

The grade for the seminar will be divided equally as follows:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 25% | Seminar presentations/participation |
| 25% | Background Brief |
| 25% | Exposition |
| 25% | Final Paper |

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions according to the formats offered. Any student missing more than nine hours, unless amended by a non-

traditional class format, may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

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.

SERMON BRIEF

Name _____

Title: (A brief phrase or sentence reflecting the sermon subject.)

Text: (Bible passage.)

Primary Audience: (The primary target of the text; i.e., *Salvation, Fellowship, or General.*)

C.I.T.: (Central Idea of the Text: A 15-18 word past-tense statement interpreting what the text meant then.)

Proposition: (A 15-18 word present-tense or future-tense application of the C.I.T.)

Purpose: (A brief statement of what the preacher wants the listeners to know or do in response to the message.)

Outline: (Two or more words, phrases, or sentences which describe the structure of the text. This will include *major divisions, sub-points, transitional statements, and conclusion statement*)