

**PREA6320: Preaching from the Epistles: Ephesians (Internet MOOC)**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Pastoral Ministries**  
**Summer 2014**

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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.

**Purpose of the Course, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries.

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for 2013-2014 is Doctrinal Integrity

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: The course will specifically address the curriculum competencies of biblical exposition, spiritual and character formation, Christian theological heritage, disciple making, and worship leadership.

**Course Description**

This course addresses preaching approaches to both the general and Pauline letters found in the New Testament. Attention is given to the form and function of epistolary material during the New Testament period, as well as to the implications of the backgrounds of the individual books for preaching. Special emphasis is given to sermonic developments of selected passages from the epistles. For **students who are taking this course for a grade**, prerequisite to entrance into this course is the successful completion of PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible, BSHM5310 Biblical Hermeneutics, and NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament (note: there are **no course prerequisites** for **students who are not taking this course for a grade**). This course will focus on Ephesians in the study of the epistles.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the Pauline and general epistles, as well as their New Testament settings;
2. Determine the distinctive message and other aspects of each epistle, especially Ephesians;
3. Understand the concepts, methods, and resources for preaching from New Testament epistles in order to preach Bible messages which are exegetically, hermeneutically, theologically, and homiletically sound;

4. Prepare a biblical sermon from each chapter of the New Testament epistle of Ephesians, which is clearly structured and effective in application to contemporary life;
5. Value preaching from the New Testament epistles in today's world.

**Required Textbooks** (will be used in doing class assignments)

Bryson, Harold. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: B&H, 1995.

Paul, Ian, and David Wenham, eds. *Preaching the New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.

**Optional Textbooks** (will be helpful and may be used in doing class assignments)

O'Brien, Peter T. *The Letter to the Ephesians*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1999.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

**Course Requirements**

**A. Students not taking the course for a grade**

Students who are not taking the course for a grade may participate in any aspect of the course, such as the textbooks reading, assignments, and final exam. However, the professors will not grade any work completed, since no grade is to be assigned.

**B. Students taking the course for a grade**

Students who are taking the course for a grade must complete the following:

1. **Epistle Summaries:** The student will write a summary overview in outline form of **Ephesians** and of **five** other epistles by choosing **one** epistle from each of the following traditional categories: pastoral (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus); prison ([Ephesians], Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon); general (James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, and Jude); general/sermon (Hebrews); and prophetic/apocalyptic (Revelation). Each summary outline must include the name of the epistle, name of the writer, date when written, place where written, recipients, setting, occasion/purpose, theme, messenger (if sent via someone), and source(s) consulted.
2. **Annotated Analysis:** The student will submit one typed, 4 pages or less (single-spaced) annotated analysis of the **two required** textbooks (i.e., Bryson and Paul/Wenham), plus **one** book from the syllabus bibliography of the student's choice on Ephesians, and plus **one** book from the syllabus bibliography on another New Testament epistle. Format: this **one** single-spaced analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of each of the **four** books with their associated annotations that answer the following questions:
  - a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
  - b. What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for preaching a New Testament epistle?
  - c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for preaching a New Testament epistle?

A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page.

3. **Expositional Outlines:** The student will type an expositional outline for **Ephesians** and for **each of the five** other epistles chosen in the epistle summaries assignment (rf., Assignment 1). Each of the **six** outlines should cover one chapter from each of the six epistles and should be at least three levels deep in development (I; A; 1).
4. **Epistle Sermon Analysis:** The student will analyze three sermons (written, audio, or video but not lectures, articles, or books) by one or more of the following preachers:

Origen of Alexandria	Augustine of Hippo	Chrysostom of Antioch
Martin Luther	John Calvin	John Knox
John Bunyan	John Wesley	John Broadus
Jonathan Edwards	Charles Simeon	Harold Bryson
G. Campbell Morgan	D.L. Moody	Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Karl Barth	W.A. Criswell	George W. Truett
Clyde Fant Jr.	J. I. Packer	John R. W. Stott
Warren Wiersbe	Voddie Baucham	D. Martin Lloyd-Jones
William Willimon	Haddon Robinson	J.D. Gray
John MacArthur	Donald G. Miller	B. Gray Allison
Leith Anderson	John Piper	Charles Stanley
Millard Erickson	Rick Warren	Joel Gregory
Gardner Taylor	Adrian Rogers	Calvin Miller
David Jeremiah	Chuck Swindoll	Billy Graham
Jim Shaddix	David Platt	Ed Young Jr.
Andy Stanley	Don Wilton	Steve Gaines
David Uth	Francis Chan	Robert Smith
Matt Chandler	James MacDonald	David Allen
Mark Driscoll	Jerry Vines	Mac Brunson
Joseph Parker	Chip Henderson	Charles Haddon Spurgeon
Fred Luter	Waylon Bailey	David Crosby
Alexander Maclaren	Phillips Brooks	Jim Henry

The student may instead choose to analyze how the same New Testament epistle text is treated or used in one sermon each by any three of the above preachers. The analysis must be done by using the Sermon Brief form attached in this syllabus (i.e., students must complete one form for each of the three sermons chosen). Students must put their name and the name of the preacher selected on each completed form.

5. **Student Sermon Briefs:** The student will use the Sermon Brief form attached in this syllabus to develop **six sermon briefs** based on the six expositional outlines (rf., Assignment 3), i.e., one sermon brief for each expositional outline developed in Assignment 3.
6. **Discussion Board:** Each student will answer **six Discussion Board questions** and must respond also to **six answers** of other students. In responding to the answers of other students, the student will express agreement, an additional insight, or how the answer helps one understand and/or preach a New Testament epistle.

**7. Final Exam:** The final exam will be a take-home, open-book exam, and questions will come from the course presentations, required textbooks, and assignments. The exam will also include an individual assessment of the personal accomplishment of two student-selected course learning objectives in this syllabus.

**Evaluation:** All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments. Student participation and behavior online will also be considered in the evaluation and grading. The student's course grade will be determined , as follows:

1. Six Epistle Summaries	10%
2. Annotated Analysis	15%
3. Six Expository Outlines	15%
4. Analysis of 3 Epistle Sermons	15%
5. Six Student Sermon Briefs	20%
6. Twelve Discussion Board Posts	10%
7. Final Exam	15%

**Submission of Assignments:** All assignments are to be submitted by **email** to [graddeanassist@nobts.edu](mailto:graddeanassist@nobts.edu) (or may be submitted by mail postmarked before or by the due date) and are due no later than 12:00 noon on these **Tuesdays**:

1. Six Epistle Summaries	June 10
2. Annotated Analysis	June 17
3. Six Expository Outlines	June 24
4. Analysis of 3 Epistle Sermons	July 1
5. Six Student Sermon Briefs	July 8
6. Twelve Discussion Board Posts	July 15

Note: assignments submitted past the due date and time will incur a late penalty of **ten** points. Assignments will not be accepted one week past the due date and time.

The final exam will be available on **Tuesday**, July 22, and will be due to [graddeanassist@nobts.edu](mailto:graddeanassist@nobts.edu) no later than **12:00 noon** on Friday, **July 25**.

### **Student/Professor Conferences**

The professors are available to dialogue with students via phone or email. Please note the contact information of the professors on the first page of the syllabus.

### **In Case of a Declared Campus Evacuation or Other Emergency**

Students are to follow the guidelines of the NOBTS announcements and locate the course on Blackboard for further instructions regarding the course.

### **Online Etiquette (Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior)**

Students are reminded to show respect for others online, be considerate of viewpoints, and demonstrate Christ-honoring behavior in posts and responses of posts by others.

### **Selected Bibliography**

- Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Bailey, James, and Lyle Vander Broek. *Literary Forms in the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
- Bryson, Harold. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: B&H, 1995.
- Capes, David, Rodney Reeves, and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Carter, Terry, Scott Duvall, and Daniel Hays. *Preaching God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Cox, James, Ed. *Biblical Preaching: An Expositor's Treasury*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastor*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Long, Thomas. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Fortress, 1989.
- O'Brien, Peter T. *The Letter to the Ephesians*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1999.
- Osborne, Grant, ed. *Ephesians*. Life Application Bible Commentary. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996.
- Pate, Marvin, Scott Duvall, Daniel Hays, Randolph Richards, Dennis Tucker, and Preben Vang. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Paul, Ian, and David Wenham, eds. *Preaching the New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.

- Polhill, John B. *Paul and His Letters*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 1999.
- Richard, Ramesh. *Preparing Expository Sermons: A Seven-Step Method for Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.
- Richards, E. Randolph. *Paul and First-Century Letter Writing*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Rydellnik, Michael, and Michael Vanlaningham, eds. *The Moody Bible Commentary*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994.
- Stenger, Werner. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1979.
- Thompson, James W. *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Rich: Gaining the Things That Money Can't Buy*. NT Commentary: Ephesians. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1979.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

**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. 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; 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

1.

2.

3.

Body

I.

1.

2.

II.

1.

2.

III.

1.

2.

Conclusion

1.

2.

3.

**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).

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.