



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY
VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

Wayland Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title and Number: RLGN 5319 Preaching

Term: Summer 2017

Name of Instructor: Dr. Ben D. Craver

Office Phone Number & WBU Email Address: (210) 826-7595; craverb@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office at 11550 IH 35 North; San Antonio, Texas; office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual Campus

Catalog Description: **RLGN 5319 Preaching** – Research in the nature and importance of preaching along with the fundamentals of sermon preparation.

Prerequisite: RLGN 4314 or 5314.

Required Textbooks:

- *Steps to the Sermon*, by H. C. Brown, H. Gordon Clinard, and Jesse J. Northcutt, Al Fasol; Nashville: B&H Academic (rev. 1996); ISBN-10 0805412387.
- *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*, by Timothy Keller; New York: Penguin Books (2015); ISBN 978-0143108719.

Course Outcome Competencies; at the end of the course, the student will be able to . . .

1. Articulate the biblical principles forming a theology of proclamation
2. Demonstrate the skills involved in sermon preparation, including organization, exegesis, gathering sermon materials, developing a contemporary hermeneutic.
3. Demonstrate skills in sermon delivery, effectively communicating the Christian message with varying audiences and varying sermon objectives.
4. Plan an appropriate program of preaching.

Attendance Requirements: Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner.

Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as **active participation** in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor.

Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.

Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may [and likely WILL] receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress (ROUP) for students with excessive non-participation.

Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.

The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

Student Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process.

Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President-Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

“... if we become exclusively preoccupied with answering the questions people are asking, we may overlook the fact that many of them often ask the wrong questions and need to be helped to ask the right ones.”

—John R. W. Stott, *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*, 139.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, Examinations, and Assignments:

PREACHING			
Week/ Date	Topics & Readings	Assignments due	DB⁺
Introduction to Biblical Preaching			
1 - w/o* 29 May	Understanding the Task <i>STS Ch 1</i>		DB1
2 - w/o 5 June	Discovering the Idea of the Sermon #“Preaching in a Congregational Context” ; <i>STS Ch 2</i>		DB2
Sermon Preparation and Delivery			
3 - w/o 12 June	Interpreting the Text <i>STS Ch 3</i>	Book Analysis due	DB3
4 - w/o 19 June	Organizing the Material <i>STS Ch 4</i>		DB4
5 - w/o 26 June	Maturing the Idea <i>STS Ch 5</i> Formulating the Structure <i>STS Ch 6</i>		DB5
6 - w/o 3 July	Finishing the Sermon <i>STS Ch 7</i>	Sermon Manuscript due	DB6
7 - w/o 10 July	Delivering (Preaching) the Sermon <i>STS Ch 8, Epilogue</i>		DB7
Preaching and Special Occasions			
8 - w/o 17 July	Planning Your Preaching #“3 Ways to plan your preaching”	Preaching Plan due	DB8
9 - w/o 24 July	Preaching on Special Days #“Preaching on National Holidays” #“Preaching Peace During Advent and Christmas”	Sermon Brief 1 due	DB9
10 - w/o 31 July	Preaching Funerals #“Telling the Truth about Death and Life”	Sermon Brief 2 due	DB10
11 - w/o 7 August	FINAL EXAMINATION		
[^] STS= <i>Steps to the Sermon</i> assigned chapters; #additional readings posted on the Bb website * = week of + = Discussion Board (DB)			

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (*ALL submitted via the assignments links on the Blackboard class website*)

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria: [**DETAILS FOLLOW IN THE SYLLABUS!*]

- DISCUSSION BOARDS; due weekly 10 Points Each; Total Points **100**
- *BOOK ANALYSIS; due NLT end of day, Saturday, 17 June Total Points **80**
- *SERMON MANUSCRIPT; due NLT end of day, Saturday, 8 July Total Points **100**
- *A PLAN FOR PREACHING; due NLT end of day, Saturday, 22 July Total Points **80**
- *SERMON BRIEFS (2); due NLT end of days, Saturday, 29 July & 5 Aug 70 Points Each; Total Points **140**
- *FINAL EXAMINATION; due NLT end of day, Sunday, 13 August Total Points **100**

Total Possible Points **600**

GRADING CRITERIA—Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Of a **TOTAL** of **600** possible points:

A	600-540 points	I	INCOMPLETE**
B	539-480 points	WP	WITHDRAWAL PASSING
C	479-420 points	WF	WITHDRAWAL FAILING
D	419-360 points	W	WITHDRAWAL
F	BELOW 360 points		



**A grade of incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student *who is passing*, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control.

Academic Honesty

University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as one's own work. See current Wayland Baptist University Catalog, for penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty.)

NOTE: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

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RLGN 5319—PREACHING
GUIDELINES FOR BOOK ANALYSIS

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your analysis of *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*, by Tim Keller. Carefully consider each directive as the analysis progresses.

- **General:**

The paper shall be at least **2,000 but no more than 2,500 words**, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your reading. For matters of style and form, consult WBU's *Digest of Writing* or, for more detail, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

NOTE: You must have a correct cover page, proper pagination, and a bibliography; the bibliography must contain an entry for the Keller's book and then any other resources you cite (such as book reviews). No need for a table of contents in this brief paper.

And, remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!

Due date: Week of 12 June; NLT end of the day, Saturday, 17 June

- **Substantive:**

It should be descriptive in approach; that is, describe what you're reading. Focus on the thinking and conclusions of Keller. As you write, select quotes which adequately characterize what he is trying to present and/or propose about preaching. To reference the quote, simply put page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (76). Do not use footnotes.

What, in general, does he think about *Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*? What does he think, in particular, about our responses to such skepticism in Part Two, "Reaching the People"? How does a contemporary preacher preach . . . Christ to culture, to the late modern mind, and to the heart?

However, a book review means that you interact with the author. Where do you think he is right? Wrong? What does he not cover adequately? What does he fail to explain to your satisfaction?

Because none of us is a homiletical scholar, you **must** check out what other reviewers have written about this book and the author's conclusions. To do so, visit the Wayland LRC and look for other book reviews. Most scholarly journals contain these sorts of reviews, too, if you have them nearby. Please reference informally, in parentheses, the various other reviewers you read (Craver, *Journal of Really Cool Preachers*, 2014).

In your concluding comments identify at least three, but no more than five, meaningful ways to relate Keller's thinking to *the preaching ministry of the church* and, if you are a preacher, to your ministry,

- **Wayland Baptist University LRC:**

WBU has a terrific library with terrific personnel ready to help in any way. Please ask the library about anything you need. They are there to help! I have had excellent results with our library. They will find and mail a book to you, post-paid with free return! And, they'll email an article to you complete with proper documentation!

RLGN 5319—PREACHING
SERMON MANUSCRIPT

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your sermon manuscript. Carefully consider each directive as the manuscript progresses.

- **General:**

The manuscript shall be at least **2,000** but no more than **2,500 words**, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your study. For matters of style and form, consult WBU's *Digest of Writing* or, for more detail, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. As religion students, you must follow this format. Remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment.

NOTE: There is no need for formal **footnotes** in the sermon manuscript. You will, however, need a **bibliography** disclosing the sources you consulted, **especially biblical commentaries**.

Due date: Week of 3 July; NLT end of the day, Saturday, 8 July

- **Substantive:**

Read/re-read the introductory paragraph to ch 6, “**Formulating the Structure**” on page 113. The final two sentences are critical for the structure of the sermon and, therefore, the structure of the manuscript:

- 1) The Text: (**ALL students will use Ephesians 2:8-9**)
- 2) The Central Idea of the Text:
- 3) The Thesis:
- 4) The Major Objective:
- 5) Sermon Structure:
 - a) Title & Text
 - b) Body
 - i) Introduction
 - ii) First statement or point
 - (1) Explanation
 - (2) Illustration
 - (3) Application
 - iii) Second statement or point
 - (1) Explanation
 - (2) Illustration
 - (3) Application
 - iv) Third statement or point (if necessary)
 - (1) Explanation
 - (2) Illustration
 - (3) Application
 - v) Conclusion

NOTE: The above outline is intended only to keep you on track. **The ITEMS listed are required. However, it is not necessary to number the items in the actual manuscript.** Simply write the manuscript. The only exception to the above statements is that for each statement or point, please note when you are explaining, illustrating, or applying. The following pages are a guide; make yours look like that.

The **SERMON MANUSCRIPT** *must* be structured as follows:

Cover page in good order

First page:

Topic/Title: “God Has Spoken”

Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

Major Objective: Doctrinal

Specific Objective: That the hearer understand God’s final revelation in Jesus Christ

Thesis: God has spoken his revealing, redeeming, and life-giving word in Jesus Christ

Outline:

“God Has Spoken”
Hebrews 1:1-4

- I. God prepared his revelation in the prophets (1:1)
- II. God perfected his revelation in the Son (1:2-4)

Second page and all pages following:

Topic/title: “God Has Spoken”

Introduction: In a narrative format in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and properly paginated, enter the full introduction. Usually, a single page is adequate, but you are not limited to one.

Body of the sermon (the “points” in the sermon):

I. God prepared his revelation in the prophets (1:1)

The body of the sermon begins with the first of your major points (and biblical text references) *exactly* as stated on the first page. *Each of the functional elements of the sermon—**explanation, illustration, application**—follow and must be labeled on a stand-alone line in the manuscript.* Continue in the narrative format—12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and properly paginated—throughout this part of the manuscript throughout. If you have sub-points please label or identify them in some way.

Conclusion: Label the conclusion as noted here, then bring the sermon to close with a complete and fitting conclusion, continuing with the narrative format in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and properly paginated.

RLGN 5319—PREACHING
A PLAN FOR PREACHING

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your plan for preaching. Carefully consider each directive as the plan progresses.

- **General:**

The plan does not have a specified work minimum or maximum. It shall be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your study. For matters of style and form, consult WBU's *Digest of Writing* or, for more detail, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. As religion students, you must follow this format. Remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment.

NOTE: There is no need for formal *footnotes* in the plan for preaching.
 You must, however, prepare a *bibliography* disclosing any sources you consulted.

Due date: Week of 17 July; NLT end of the day, Saturday, 22 July

- **Substantive:**

The plan for preaching will be based on the **final quarter of the year 2017**. You will need to consider sermons that relate to Thanksgiving and the Christmas/Advent seasons. You will also need to have sermons planned that precede those emphases. The working assumption is that your church has only morning services; you may make use of yours or another church if you are not a pastor; be as authentic as possible.

The plan will have **two major parts**: the **explanation** and the **plan** itself. Compose them as follows:

The Explanation: in a **narrative format** of 950 to no more than 1,000 words, describe the following aspects of your preaching plan; try to use an actual setting even if you have to "return" to a previous church:

- **Church field or area:** rural/urban, population, growth patterns, median age, etc.
- **Church membership:** number of members, average attendance, income levels, educational attainment, ethnicities, gender, median age, recent events, major milestones, etc.
- **Church needs:** discipleship, ethical values, doctrine, evangelism, missional, etc.

The Plan: using the design below, complete your plan.

- Be sure that your plan includes the six items below; as an example . . .

Date: November 19, 2017; the Sunday before Thanksgiving

Emphasis: Being thankful for God's blessings

Text: Philippians 4:5-7

Proposed Topic/Title: "What If I Thanked God . . . Persistently?" (1 in a series of 3)

Major Objective: Consecrative

Specific Objective: That Christians would recognize and practice giving thanks to God in recurring, relentless, and resolute ways.

- Use as much space for this part of the assignment as necessary; have some fun with it!

RLGN 5319—PREACHING
TWO SERMON BRIEFS

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your **TWO sermon briefs**. Carefully consider each directive as the briefs progress.

- **General:**

The briefs shall be at least **1,200** but no more than **1,600 words**, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your study. For matters of style and form, consult WBU's *Digest of Writing* or, for more detail, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. As religion students, you must follow this format. Remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!!

NOTE: There is no need for formal *footnotes* in the sermon briefs. You will, however, need a *bibliography* disclosing the sources you consulted, especially biblical commentaries.

Due dates: *NLT end of two days, Saturday, 29 July & 5 August*

- **Substantive:**

Essentially, the sermon briefs are shorter versions (that's why they're called briefs!) of a sermon manuscript. Follow the guidelines for manuscript **exactly as stated above . . . except in one area**.

The "brief" means that you include the *entire introduction and conclusion*, but—here is the **exception—only include the *essential (i.e., briefed) aspects of the explanation of the biblical text, illustration, and application.***

It is not required that you label these aspects as you did with the sermon manuscript; however, I will be looking to ensure they are distinctively present and fit well with the explanation of the text.

RLGN 5319—PREACHING
FINAL EXAMINATION

The final examination is an **open book exam** that **does not require a proctor**. Your only adversary will be the clock. The exam will be composed of **25 questions** and has a **90-minute time limit**.

Questions will be drawn from anywhere within the Brown, Clinard, Northcutt, and Fasol textbook. My advice to you is to be familiar with where certain aspects within the text are. For example, where would you look to answer a question about preaching history? Or what the Major Objectives of a sermon might be? Or the characteristics of a good thesis statements, and so on. **There is no review**.

The questions will be T/F, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and perhaps a short answer question. I will review all of the answers you provide.

Due date: *End of the day, Sunday, 13 August*

THE END