



**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: RLG 5319 Preaching

Term: Summer 2018

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: RLG 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.
- *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith*, by Thomas G. Long. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing (2011); ISBN-13: 978-0802865144.

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.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, Examinations, and Assignments:

PREACHING			
Date	Topics & Readings	Assignments due	DB*
Introduction to Biblical Preaching			
1 - w/o* 28 May	Understanding the Task STS Ch 1		DB1
2 - w/o 4 June	Discovering the Idea of the Sermon #“Preaching in a Congregational Context” ; STS Ch 2		DB2
Sermon Preparation and Delivery			
3 - w/o 11 June	Interpreting the Text STS Ch 3	Book Analysis due	DB3
4 - w/o 18 June	Organizing the Material STS Ch 4		DB4
5 - w/o 25 June	Maturing the Idea Formulating the Structure STS Ch 5 STS Ch 6		DB5
6 - w/o 2 July	Finishing the Sermon STS Ch 7		DB6
7 - w/o 9 July	Delivering (Preaching) the Sermon STS Ch 8, Epilogue	Sermon Manuscript #1	DB7
Preaching and Special Occasions			
8 - w/o 16 July	Planning Your Preaching #“3 Ways to plan your preaching”		DB8
9 - w/o 23 July	Preaching on Special Days #“Preaching on National Holidays” #“Preaching Peace During Advent and Christmas”		DB9
10 - w/o 30 July	Preaching Funerals #“Telling the Truth about Death and Life”	Sermon Manuscript #2	DB10
11 - w/o 6 Aug	PROCTORED FINAL EXAMINATION		
^STS= Steps to the Sermon 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:

1. **Discussion Boards**; due weekly 10 Points Each; Total Points **100**
2. ***Critical Book Analysis**; due NLT end of day, Sunday, 17 June Total Points **100**
3. ***Sermon Manuscript #1**; due NLT end of day, Sunday, 15 July (*Psalm 1*) Total Points **100**
4. ***Sermon Manuscript #2**; due NLT end of day, Sunday 5 Aug (*Your own funeral*) Total Points **100**
5. ***Final Examination**; due NLT end of day, Sunday, 12 August Total Points **100**

Total Possible Points 500

***Details Follow in the Syllabus**

GRADING CRITERIA—Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Of a **TOTAL** of **500** possible points:

A	500-450 points	I	INCOMPLETE**
B	449-400 points	WP	WITHDRAWAL PASSING
C	399-350 points	WF	WITHDRAWAL FAILING
D	349-300 points	W	WITHDRAWAL
F	BELOW 300 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 CRITICAL BOOK ANALYSIS

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

Due date: NLT end of the day Sunday, 17 June

A **critical book analysis** provides an assessment of a text and an interaction of the ideas of that text with the ideas of others in the field and with your own analysis. The analysis shall be at least 1,800 but no more than 2,050 words, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your reading. Word count counts! 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*, latest edition. And, remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!

Divide and label the review into the following five sections:

1. **The thesis:** Summarize the argument in 600 – 650 words. Identify the thesis in one sentence (provide the book's page number). Focusing on the thesis, how does the author then argue for that thesis as the book progresses? Lengthy summaries are unnecessary. Look for the links between ideas and how those ideas move the argument along and result in a conclusion.
2. **Your critique:** Does the book make sense to you? Is it well-organized? Is the argument sound? Is it well-researched and documented? Are the conclusions reasonable? Does the writing style fit the content? Make your critique around 600 – 650 words.
3. **Their critique:** What are others in the field saying about this topic? Because none of us is a scholar, you **MUST** check out what other reviewers have written about this book and the author's conclusions. 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). List these resources in the bibliography. Summarize their critique(s) in 200 – 250 words.
4. **Your opinion:** On the basis of your knowledge and experience, what is your opinion of this work? How will the book aid in your own thinking and action? Put your opinion in 200 – 250 words.
5. **Making it relative:** In your concluding comments identify at least three, but no more than five, meaningful ways to relate the author's thinking to the preaching ministry of the church and, if you are a preacher, to your ministry. Bullet points are fine here. Again, around 200 – 250 words.

RLGN 5319—PREACHING
SERMON MANUSCRIPTS

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

Each 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. **APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment.**

Please do not include formal footnotes in the sermon manuscript. You will reference sources only in the **bibliography**. You must **use ALL FIVE biblical commentaries** on eReserve to prepare your FIRST sermon manuscript. You may use additional commentaries if you wish. But, absolutely NO single-volume commentaries! For the SECOND sermon manuscript, you are free to use any commentary you desire.

Due date Manuscript #1, Psalm 1: NLT end of the day, Sunday, 15 July

Due date Manuscript #2, your own funeral: NLT end of the day, Sunday, 5 August

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:

Title:
Text:
Major Objective:
Specific Objective:
Central Idea of the Text:
Thesis:
Sermon Structure:
 Title & Text
 Body
 Introduction
 First statement or point
 Explanation
 Illustration
 Application
 Second statement or point
 Explanation
 Illustration
 Application
 Third statement or point (if necessary)
 Explanation
 Illustration
 Application
 Conclusion

The following commentaries are on **eReserve** and appear on the left side of the Bb class website:

Remember, you **MUST USE ALL FIVE COMMENTARIES** in the sermon manuscript. Most likely, they will appear in the Explanation section of the sermon. As noted above, there is no need for a footnote.

However, as you “quote” or refer to one of the commentaries below, please put in parenthesis at the end of the sentence the letter corresponding to the respective commentary and the page number on which your quote or reference appears.

For example, if you quote Kidner as saying, “It seems likely that this psalm was specially composed as an introduction to the whole Psalter,” then immediately at the end of that sentence, put in parentheses the reference and page number (K47).

- (R) Alan Ross, “Psalms: 1-41,” *Kregel Exegetical Commentary*, 2012.
- (K) Derek Kidner, “Psalms 1-72,” *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*, 1973.
- (V) Willem A. VanGemeren, “Psalms,” *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, 1991.
- (C) Peter Craigie, “Psalms 1-50,” *Word Biblical Commentary*, 1983.
- (W) Gerald Wilson, “Psalms Vol 1,” *NIV Application Commentary*, 2002.

*You MUST use the commentaries above in your sermon. You may use others.
But, no single volume commentaries, or Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, Ellicott, Spurgeon, etc.*

For specifics on **HOW** the sermon manuscript MUST appear when you submit it, please refer to the **Model Sermon** on the left side of our Blackboard class website.

If your sermon manuscript DOES NOT look like that when you submit it, or if you fail to follow any of the stipulations above, it will be returned to you for correct. The corrected copy will be accepted, but a **20% reduction in grade** will be applied to the second submission.

RLGN 5319—PREACHING **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination is an **open book exam**, but **DOES 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 located. 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. They may not be straight-forward. Read each question carefully. I will review all of the answers you provide.

Due date: End of the day, Sunday, 12 August