The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
The Shepherd’s Conference
March 3-8, 2015
Spring 2015

PROFESSOR
Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
President

GARRETT FELLOW
Samuel Emadi
Director of Theological Research, Office of the President
Direct all course-related correspondence to:
semadi@sbts.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides the valuable combination of academic rigor and practical application. You will learn from renowned conference speakers and by listening to a variety of supplemental instructional material. The reading requirements are designed to help you develop both a foundational biblical theology of preaching, a robust doctrine of Scripture, and a confidence in the practical necessities of shepherding from the pulpit. The writing assignments will give you the opportunity to articulate, and thereby better comprehend the issues related to the authority of Scripture and preaching.

This course will follow the conference schedule available on the Shepherds’ Conference website. Additional instructions, if necessary, will be available on Moodle. Attendance at all conference sessions is mandatory.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
The student who successfully completes this course will demonstrate the following competencies:

1.) Understand the Christ-centered, kingdom-oriented nature of Scripture and how it shapes the preaching task.
2.) Learn to articulate and defend the Biblical notion of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture.
3.) Interpret a biblical text for the purposes of church proclamation.
4.) Develop clarity on proper approaches to Christ-centered preaching, illustration, application.
5.) Focus sermons on the ultimate purpose of God in all things: the exaltation of Jesus Christ as the mediator of salvation and the King of the cosmos.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
Call the SBTS LifeWay (502-897-4506), where all books have been requested and put on hold there. Or you may purchase the required textbooks from another bookseller of your choice.

• R. Albert Mohler, Jr., *He is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008).


• SBTS Style Manual. [Download here](#).

COURSE SUMMARY
Reading Assignments and Reading Report—25%
Personal Interaction Paper—30%
Out-of-Class Sermons—40%
Online Media Assignments and Report—5%
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Attendance and Class Participation. Attendance at all of the pre-conference lectures (if any) and the Shepherds’ Conference sessions is mandatory. Failure to attend any lecture or session will result in a failing grade for the course. Each student is expected to participate in all lectures, panels, and events.

2) Reading Assignments and Reports. Each student is expected to read all assigned readings. For each book, a 1-page, double-spaced reading report is required that: (1) indicates the percentage you have read and (2) summarizes your reflections on how you can specifically apply an idea from the book to your life and ministry. All reading reports must be uploaded to Moodle by 11:55pm Sunday, May 3, 2015.

3) Personal Interaction Paper. Students will complete an 8-page analytical paper in which they reflect thoughtfully on the pre-conference lectures and the conference sessions. You must interact critically with what you have learned and demonstrate how such learning can be applied to your life and ministry. Students should address at least 3 topics and offer at least 3 developed points for each topic. This paper should conform to the current version of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Style Guide. This paper must be uploaded to Moodle by 11:55pm Sunday, April 19, 2015.

4) Out-of-Class Sermons. Each student will preach 3 videotaped 20-30 minute sermons outside of class: 1 sermon from an OT text; 1 from a NT text; 1 from either the OT or the NT. The texts must be ones that the student has never preached before. Students should specifically seek to implement a Christ-centered approach to the text in which they demonstrate how the text relates to Christ. The student should also include an exact copy of the notes/manuscript used when each sermon was preached.

Each student is required to view the video and submit a 1-page (single-spaced) personal evaluation of each sermon that includes: (1) an assessment of strengths and weaknesses; and (2) specific strategies for improvement. Make sure you have a course of action for overcoming your weaknesses and enhancing your strengths. All 3 personal evaluation documents must be uploaded to Moodle by 11:55pm Sunday, May 3, 2015.

5) Online Media Assignments and Report. Each student is required to watch and listen to the sermons listed below. A report indicating the percentage of each sermon watched and listened to must be uploaded to Moodle by 11:55pm Sunday, May 3, 2015.

   John Piper | Audio: “Why Expositional Preaching is Particularly Glorifying to God”
   Tim Keller | Audio: “Preaching to Believers & Unbelievers”
Bryan Chapell | Audio: “The Heart of Christ-centered Preaching”
R. Albert Mohler, Jr. | Audio: “The Foolishness of Preaching: Why Expositional Preaching is Such a Bad Idea”
John MacArthur | Audio: “Fundamentals of Expository Preaching”

Additionally, the student must listen to/watch a minimum of **9 hours** of preaching lecture of their choosing from either Edmund Clowney and/or Bryan Chapell (the student may watch some of each, if they desire, as long as the total minimum number of hours is **9**).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0 96-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7 93-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>3.3 90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0 85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7 80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0 75-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7 70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0 65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7 60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Withdrew Passing, (Granted only if all assignments due prior to withdrawal have been completed.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdrew Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete (No grades of incomplete will be issued for this course except in an extreme circumstances as determined by the professor.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HONOR CODE**

All students are required to affirm their academic integrity when submitting course work and assignments by including the following statement on the front of the document, followed by the student’s signature: *On my honor, I have neither given nor taken improper assistance in completing this assignment.*

**COURSE VALUES**

Your professor holds without reservation and without apology to the doctrinal commitments of the Abstract of Principles (1859) and the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) as accurately representing biblical truth. The professor’s understanding of the nature of Scripture is summarized in these confessional documents and in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978). This course will be taught within the context of this set of confessional convictions as the professor joyfully submits himself to the accountability of Holy Scripture, of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, and of the administration and leadership of the Southern Seminary.

**COURSE PROTOCOLS**

Late assignments. Points received for any late assignment will be reduced...
by 50%, and it is unlikely that the student will receive a final grade above C. Unless every assignment is completed, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Respect for divergent viewpoints.** Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed. But such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

**Student email.** Students are responsible to check their students.sbts.edu email account daily. Failure to do so will result in a failure to obtain needed information.

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is the theft or unattributed use of the intellectual property of another. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* provides the following definition of the word, “plagiarize”: “To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own—to use (a created production) without crediting the source—to commit literary theft—to present as new and original an idea or product from an existing source.” Educators have a traditional concern that material be credited properly as a part of the learning process. To this concern, the Christian adds a commitment to the worth of persons, to the importance of the search for truth, and to the integrity of belief and behavior. The prohibition of theft, at least as old as the Ten Commandments, extends to the misrepresentation of an individual’s most personal property: words and ideas. The Southern Seminary community considers plagiarism to be conduct inappropriate to a minister. It also identifies plagiarism as an offense against the community and, as such, cause for disciplinary action. At its core, plagiarism is at once an act of pride, covetousness, theft, and sloth: by plagiarizing, a person pridefully sets himself up as having formulated an idea that belonged to someone else, desires to possess that idea for himself, ultimately steals that idea for himself and his own purposes, and thereby avoids a God-given opportunity for meaningful labor. The professor(s) will deal firmly with any form of plagiarism. If there is any doubt or even potential doubt as to whether an idea comes from you or from someone else, always note and reference the source. In less formal situations, it may be sufficient to say or write, “As [source] said . . .” In formal writing, standard conventions for documenting sources must be followed. The guide to this type of documentation at Southern Seminary is *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style*. Specific citations and references are necessary not only when a source is quoted or paraphrased, but also when an idea was influenced by a particular source or group of sources. Whenever the professor requests that sources be utilized in an assignment, it is expected that the student will reference the source through explicit citations. Please note that there are provisions for the citation even of unknown sources. There is never an excuse for plagiarism.
Special needs. Because each individual has been created in the image of God, each individual is inherently valuable. It is, therefore, the desire of Southern Seminary and the professor to work with students to the fullest degree possible, regardless of physical or mental challenges. If this includes special accommodations—for example, the use of a recording device, adaptive equipment, or special note taking—please contact the Garrett Fellow prior to the first day of class.

Grievances and grade disputes. The professor’s Garrett Fellow may grade some assignments (in some cases, all of the assignments). The professor has full confidence in this individual’s ability to evaluate students’ work. If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from the Garrett Fellow via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may discuss the matter with the professor, but please note that only in the most unusual and extreme circumstances would the professor ever change the original grade assigned by the Garrett Fellow. If consultation with the Garrett Fellow and with the professor still does not resolve the grievance, the student should contact the Dean of the School of Theology and Senior Vice President for Academic Administration at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**FINAL NOTE ABOUT THE SYLLABUS**

The professor reserves the right at any time to alter the syllabus at his own discretion.