

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education Session**  
**A Partnership with the General Council of the Assemblies of God**  
***In Conjunction with Pentecostal Preachers' Week—March 8-10, 2004***  
**Springfield, Missouri**  
***REVISED 11/20/03***

**HOME 640 SPECIALIZED STUDIES IN HOMILETICS**  
**(2 and 3 Credits)**

**Professor of Record**  
**Richard Dresselhaus, D.Min.**

**Spring 2004**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course seeks to enhance preaching skills through the observation and critique of outstanding speakers during Pentecostal Preachers' Week, along with the reading and analysis of important books on preaching, and the preparation of a written sermon incorporating the insights gained.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Experience and evaluate various approaches to contemporary Pentecostal preaching.
2. Deepen understanding of the essential aspects and principles in sermon preparation and delivery.
3. Develop the ability to critique messages, so as to maximize the factors for effective communication and to minimize negative ones in preaching.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Johnston, Graham MacPherson. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-First Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching That Connects*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

If any of these have been previously assigned, substitute other reading from the select bibliography.

## HOME 640 Special Studies—Homiletics

### AGTS Continuing Education

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The student will choose additional readings from the bibliography and/or other books and articles approved by the professor for a total (required and selected) of 1500 pages (for 3 units credit) or 1000 pages (for 2 units credit). *You do not need to read a selected book in its entirety, but may select the chapters of interest and value to you.*

If you have not read the following, you are encouraged to read select chapters from them:

Duduit, Michael. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Communicate with Power—Insights from America's Top Communicators*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all sessions of the Pentecostal Preachers' Week conference. For each message:
  - a. Complete a “**Communications Evaluation**” form (This is attached. Duplicate as many copies as needed).
  - b. Using the above form as a guide, prepare a one to two page double-spaced typed evaluation. Include an explanation of the type(s) of listeners for whom this message would be effective. Submit both the form and your typed evaluation.
2. For the textbooks and other books selected, prepare a two page double-spaced typed critique. Evaluate its overall value to you, citing benefits and limitations. State the concepts that were helpful to you. *At the top of the first page, indicate the number of pages read.* For articles, prepare a similar one page critique.
3. Prepare a 30 minute sermon on a subject of your choice. This should be typed double-spaced with one-inch margins, yielding approximately 10 pages. *On a separate page, provide the following information:* title, theme or topic, basic proposition, intended audience, purpose, need addressed, and solution offered.

Work should be submitted to AGTS Continuing Education, ATTN: Richard Dresselhaus, 1435 N. Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802 or [agts-ext@agts.edu](mailto:agts-ext@agts.edu) and postmarked no later than **June 9, 2004**.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Evaluation of messages	30%
Textbook and reading interaction papers	40%
Sermon	30%

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

***Preaching***

*Achtemeier, Elizabeth.* Preaching from the Old Testament. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.*

*Allen, Ronald J., Barbara S. Blaisdell, and Scott B. Johnstone.* Theology for Preaching: Authority, Truth, and Knowledge of God in a Postmodern Ethos. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.*

*Allen, Ronald J.* Preaching the Topical Sermon. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.*

*Bartlett, David.* Between the Bible and the Church: New Methods for Biblical Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.*

*Bodey, Richard Allen, ed.* Inside the Sermon: 13 Preachers Discuss their Methods of Preparing Messages. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1990.*

*Brown, H.C.* Steps to the Sermon (revised). *Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1996.*

*Bryson, Harold T.* Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible. *Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1995.*

*Buttrick, David.* A Captive Voice. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.*

\_\_\_\_\_. Homiletic: Moves and Structures. *Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987.*

*Chapell, Bryan.* Christ-Centered Preaching. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.*

\_\_\_\_\_. Using Illustrations to Preach with Power. *Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.*

*Craddock, Fred.* Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.*

*Duduit, Michael, ed. Handbook of Contemporary Preaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1992.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *ed. Communicating with Power: Insights from America's Top Communicators. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.*

*Duffett, Robert G. A Relevant Word: Communicating the Gospel to Seekers. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1995.*

*Elliot, Mark Barger. Creative Styles of Preaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000.*

*Eslinger, Richard L. Intersections: Post-Critical Studies in Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1994.*

*Freeman, Harold. Varieties of Biblical Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Word Publishing, 1987.*

*Greidanus, Sidney. Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.*

*Henderson, David W. Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1999.*

*Johnston, Graham. Preaching to a Postmodern World: A guide to Reaching Twenty-First Century Listeners. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2001.*

*Hybels, Bill, Stuart Brisco and Hadden Robinson. Mastering Contemporary Preaching. Portland OR: Christianity Today Inc., 1993.*

*Lewis, Ralph. Inductive Preaching. Westchester, IL: Crossway Publishing, 1983.*

*Long, Thomas. Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1989.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Witness of Preaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989*

*Loscalzo, Craig A. Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Evangelistic Preaching that Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh and Appealing Sermons. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.*

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching that Connects. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.*
- Lowry, Eugene. The Sermon: Dancing on the Edge of Mystery. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.*
- Lowry, Eugene. Doing Time in the Pulpit: The Relationship Between Narrative and Preaching. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.*
- MacArther, John Jr. Rediscovering Expository Preaching. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1992.*
- Massey, James Earl. The Sermon in Perspective: A Study of Communication and Charisma. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1976.*
- McDill, Wayne. The 12 Essential Skills of Great Preaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.*
- Miller, Calvin. Marketplace Preaching. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Empowered Communicator: 7 Keys to Unlocking an Audience. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Spirit, Word, and Story: A Philosophy of Preaching. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989.*
- Olford, Stephen F. Anointed Expository Preaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998.*
- Perry, Lloyd M. and Charles M. Sell. Speaking to Life's Problems: A Sourcebook for Preaching and Teaching. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1993.*
- Robinson, Haddon W. Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2001.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Biblical Sermons: How Twelve Preachers Apply the Principles of Biblical Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Making a Difference in Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.*
- Stott, John R.W. Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Preacher's Portrait. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975.*

*Turpie, Bill, ed. Ten Great Preachers: Messages and Interviews. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.*

*Walker, Alan. Evangelistic Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988.*

*Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson, eds. The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.*

*Wiersbe, Warren W. Preaching and Teaching with Imagination. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.*

*Wilson, Paul Scott. The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.*

### ***Sermon Collections***

*Bodey, Richard Allen. Good News for All Seasons: 26 Sermons for Special Days. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987.*

*Brand, Chad and Clark Palmer. Holiday Sermons. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.*

*Christianity Today Inc. Today's Best Sermons. (CD-Rom)*

*Elliot, Mark Barger. Creative Styles of Preaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000.*

*Klingsporn, Gary W., ed. The Library of Distinctive Sermons, Vol. 1 to 6. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1996, 1997.*

*Long, Thomas G. and Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., eds. A Chorus of Witnesses: Model Sermons for Today's Preacher. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1994.*

*Turpie, Bill, ed. Ten Great Preachers: Messages and Interviews. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.*

*Wiersbe, Warren, ed. Sermons of the Century. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.*

*Illustrations*

*Fields, Doug and Eddie James. Videos that Teach: Teachable Movie Moments from 75 Modern Film Classics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.*

*Larson, Craig Brian. Choice Contemporary Stories and Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers, and Writers. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.*

\_\_\_\_\_. Contemporary Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers, and Writers. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.*

*Parsons Technology. Bible Illustrator 3. (CD-Rom)*

*Rowell, Edward K., ed. Fresh Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching from Leadership Journal. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.*

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by AGTS Continuing Education Office, November 6, 2003.

# COMMUNICATIONS EVALUATION

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Date Message Given \_\_\_\_\_

## I. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Primary proposition \_\_\_\_\_

Primary intended audience \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Need addressed \_\_\_\_\_

Solution provided \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction summarized:

Main points and subpoints, if any (Structure and flow for inductive message)

Conclusion Summarized:

**II. FACTORS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

1. Relevance \_\_\_ Was the subject relevant for the audience? \_\_\_ For you? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Spiritual dynamic \_\_\_ Did you sense the inspiration and conviction of God's Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Depth of insight \_\_\_ What fresh insight did you gain? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Clarity \_\_\_ Did you get the primary proposition and main points? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Stories & illustrations \_\_\_ Which do you remember? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Vulnerability \_\_\_ Did the speaker share his own struggles? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Creative expressions \_\_\_ Which do you remember? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Character and personality \_\_\_ Did the speaker connect with you? \_\_\_ Evoke your respect? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Energy, vitality, drama \_\_\_ Did you feel engaged and absorbed in the message? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Appropriate humor \_\_\_ Did it enhance the message? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. CONTENT AND SHAPE**

1. Interesting introduction \_\_\_ Did the speaker gain your attention and interest? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Accurate Biblical Interpretation \_\_\_ Was it correct? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Proper amount of content \_\_\_ Was it skimpy, overloaded, or just right? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Cohesiveness \_\_\_ Did you sense a unifying theme throughout? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pace and flow \_\_\_ Did parts "drag" or "dash"? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Quality of conclusion \_\_\_ Did it creatively drive home the basic theme? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. DELIVERY AND VOICE**

Comments:

1. Mood—intensity & variation \_\_\_\_\_
2. Volume—range & variation \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pitch—range & variation \_\_\_\_\_
4. Rate—variation \_\_\_\_\_
5. Enunciation—clarity \_\_\_\_\_
6. Stress on important words \_\_\_\_\_
7. Phrasing, pauses--varied, appropriate \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pronunciation—accurate \_\_\_\_\_
9. Eye contact \_\_\_\_\_
10. Facial expressions \_\_\_\_\_
11. Gestures \_\_\_\_\_
12. Appearance \_\_\_\_\_