

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Continuing Education Course

**Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania**

**Session # 1: Friday, September 16 > 8am-6:30pm
Saturday, September 17 > 8am-6:30pm**

**Session # 2: Friday, November 11 > 8am-6:30pm
Saturday, November 12 > 8am-6:30pm**

HOMB 630 CONTEMPORARY PREACHING (3 Credits)

Dr. Ronald S. Hall

Fall 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis and development of sermons for the contemporary congregation. This course will explore effective preaching styles and sermon content for today's world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Student will identify essentials in effectively connecting the Bible to a contemporary listener.
2. Student will apply those essential skills in their own preaching.
3. Student will analyze narrative passages in both the Old and New Testaments with the focus being on reaching a contemporary audience with life changing truth.
4. Student will be assessed while preaching two sermons in class for the purpose of strengthening content and delivery skills in order to reach a contemporary listener.
5. Student will observe and evaluate effective and ineffective preaching of others.
6. Student will analyze their current preparation and preaching practices and set a specific course to enrich and expand those approaches to reach a contemporary audience.
7. Student will create a plan for series preaching that will relate to a contemporary audience.

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TEXTBOOKS

Hall, Ronald. *Biblical Preaching: Discovering and Presenting Life Changing Messages*. (Purchase copy from Dr. Hall at first session), 2005 edition. Cost: \$21.00

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.

Mathewson, Steven. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.

Quicke, Michael. *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2003.

Walsh, John. *The Art of Storytelling: Easy Steps to Presenting an Unforgettable Story*. Chicago, Illinois, 2003.

Wells, Richard and A Boyd Luter. *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

METHODOLOGY

This course will include hands on work for sermon preparation with observation, evaluation and application of the principles being learned through reading, class projects and personal work. The class will include lectures, full open dialogue and interaction with the tools available. Student preaching will take place to develop skills. Since this course will be held in the Storm Research Center on the Valley Forge Christian College Campus, the student will be able to access a variety of tools that will enrich the learning process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Bring class textbooks to each session.

Session # 1: Friday, September 16
Saturday, September 17

A. Pre-Session

1. Read in its entirety *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Write 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper. The paper must cover the following:

- A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
- Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.

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- ❑ How does the book serve to strength your sermon preparation? Identify at least 3 items and elaborate.
 - ❑ How does the book serve to strength your sermon delivery? Identify at least 3 items and elaborate.
 - ❑ Evaluate the book positively and negatively for use in contemporary culture and being true to the Bible.
2. Read in its entirety *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Write 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection. The paper must cover the following:
- ❑ A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - ❑ Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - ❑ Identify and clearly describe the most helpful aspects of the book in relation to preaching narrative passages. You should have 3-5 items.
 - ❑ How does this book motivated you to prepare more *biblically-focused* narrative Sermon to reach a contemporary audience and remain true to the Bible?
 - ❑ Evaluate the book positively and negatively in reaching a contemporary audience.
3. Prepare a sermon that you believe speak to a contemporary culture. Plan to preach the sermon in a 15-20 minute window that will be given during class time. It must be a message that makes extensive use of the passage in context. A full manuscript must be turned in at the time of preaching, which reflects literary, historical-cultural, word, contextual and thematic study. In other words, it must be an exegetical sermon. DO NOT use a narrative passage. That will be requiring during the November session.
4. Bring a manuscript of a recently preached sermon to the first session. Prepare 3 pages that address: how did you prepare the sermon – prayer, time, tools used, reason text chosen? What did you try to accomplish in the sermon? What would you do differently if you were to approach the text again? What was the response to the message? How would honestly expect a contemporary listener to respond? Be prepared to present your work to the class during this first session and hand in the written work.

B. Session

1. Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required.
2. Be prepared for quality dialogue with the class concerning your recent manuscript and approach to the sermon as noted in pre-session work.
3. Be prepared to preach a 15-20 minute sermon as noted in pre-session work. Each student sermon will be openly evaluated and discussed in class for the purpose of creating a personal growth experience.

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C. Post-Session

1. Write a two-page reflection paper on the most practical tools from the first session that you can put into practice immediately and a specific plan on how you will utilize those tools. Turn in at second session.
2. Start preparation on a narrative sermon for the next session which draws on insights gained from the first session and course reading.

Session # 2: Friday, November 11
Saturday, November 12

A. Pre-Session

1. Read in its entirety *Biblical Preaching: Preparing and Designing Life Changing Messages*. Write 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection to hand in at the second class. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the workbook has been read in its entirety.
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 significance items that you need to work on in your preparation – Part 1 of Workbook. What is your plan for implementation? Be specific.
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 areas that you need to work on in relation to either modeling, visualizing, launching, landing, or communicating – Part 2 of Workbook. What is your plan for implementation? Be specific.
 - Evaluate the workbook positively and negatively concerning practical use.
2. Read in its entirety *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Write 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - What parts of the book have helped you most in considering the communication of the truths of the Bible in terms that can be culturally grasped today? Identify at least 3 and elaborate.
 - Reflect on three specifics that help you focus yourself in sermon preparation?
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 areas of weakness that you see personally in light of the book's content. What do you need to have in mind when approaching sermon preparation and delivery? What specific steps can you take to improve in those areas? What is your plan for implementation?
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
3. Read in its entirety *The Art of Story Telling: Easy Steps to Presenting an Unforgettable Story* Write a 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection. The paper must cover the following:

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- A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - Identify and elaborate on 3 specific items that can help you more effectively preach a narrative sermon and effectively “show and tell” the story for today’s culture.
4. Come prepare to preach a 15- 20-minute sermon in session using the following procedure:
- The sermon should come from an Old Testament narrative.
 - The sermon must be a biblical, exegetical sermon
 - A full manuscript must be turned in at the time of preaching, which reflects literary, historical-cultural, lexical-syntactical, contextual and thematic study. The manuscript should follow the instructions starting on page 188 of the workbook to be sure that the essentials are covered.
 - You should also prepare the message in light of the concepts found in *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*.
5. Do a *Sermon Critique* of a preacher of your choice from a service you attend or analyze via videotape or television. Use the form provided at session # 1.

B. Session

1. Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required.
2. Be prepared for quality dialogue with the class concerning required reading for this session.
3. Preach your 15-20-minute sermon in class. Each sermon will be openly evaluated and discussed in class.

C. Post-Session

1. Write a two-page reflection on the most practical tools from the second session that you can put into practice immediately and a specific plan on how you will implement those tools.
2. Video tape one of your sermons. (Cassette tape allowed only if you have no one to video tape you.) Then, using the *Sermon Critique Form*, evaluate yourself. Do an honest evaluation of yourself as if you were in the audience listening to the sermon being preached. Being hard on yourself or easy on yourself will not impact your grade. This is a growth experience for you. You should be able to identify ways in which you can do better.
3. Lay out a plan for a narrative sermon series, of 6-8 weeks in length. You are not required to write out the entire sermons but rather evaluate the book or portion of the book of the Bible you will be using and come up with a solid series plan. Your work should be at least 6 pages in length and provide enough insight for a reader to be able to see where you are heading and

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what you hope to accomplish.. Specific instructions will be given in class.

4. Read in its entirety *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Write a 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection... The paper must cover the following:
- ❑ A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - ❑ Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - ❑ Which parts of the book have served to strengthen your theology of preaching? Identify at least 3 and elaborate.
 - ❑ How does the book serve to strength your sermon preparation?
 - ❑ What sermon series ideas have emerged through the process of reading this book?
 - ❑ Evaluate the book positively and negatively.

DUE DATE: Work is due at each session as described above. Final work (In post-session above) should be completed 60 days after the November 12th class, which is January 12th.

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GRADING PROCEDURE

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| 1. Reflection Papers on 6 Class Textbooks - | 40% |
| 3. 2 Class Sermons & Manuscripts - | 35% |
| 4. Sermon Critique of Self - | 5% |
| 5. Sermon Critiques of Preacher - | 5% |
| 6. Sermon Series - | 10% |
| 7. Three Specified Reflections: | 5% |
| Session 1 on Sermon Process | |
| Practical Tools from Session 1 | |
| Practical Tools from Session 2 | |

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (See Workbook – p. 202-207 for a more extensive listing)

Adams, J.E. *Preaching with Purpose: the Urgent Task of Homiletics*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York, New York: Basic – Harpercollins Publishing, 1981.

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Berlin, Adele. *Poetic and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Sheffield: Almond, 1993.

Bisagno, John. *Principle Preaching: How to Create and Deliver Sermons for Life Application*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Chappel, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon* (Second Edition). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 2005.

Duduit, Michael, ed. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman Press, 1992.

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Ezell, Rick. *Hitting a Moving Target*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 1999.

Fokkelman, J.P. *Reading Biblical Narrative*. Philadelphia: Penn.: Westminster, 1999.

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Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

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Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.

Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1981.

Klein, George L., ed. *Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle: Preaching the Old Testament Faithfully*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1992.

Larson, David. *Telling the Old, Old Story: The Art of Narrative Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 1995.

Lewis, Ralph L. *Inductive Preaching*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1987.

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Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Downer Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

MacArthur, John and the Master's Seminary Faculty. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Dallas, Texas: Word Publishing, 1992.

Mathewson, Steven. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.

Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching with Freshness*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 1997.

McDill, Wayne. *The Moment of Truth: A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1999.

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Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002.

Montoya, Alex. *Preaching with Passion*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 2000.

Olford, Stephen. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

Overstreet, R. Larry. *Biographical Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 2001.

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching, second edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 2001.

Vines, Jerry. *A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1986.

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Wells, Richard and A Boyd Luter. *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination: A Quest for Biblical Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1994.