

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**PTH 931: Advanced Expository Preaching**

Doug Oss, Ph.D.  
[doss@agts.edu](mailto:doss@agts.edu)  
Office: 417.268.1000

October 7-10, 2008

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Instruction in preaching from the major genres of Scripture: narrative, poetry, wisdom, prophecy/apocalyptic, gospels, epistles. The course will focus on expositional and interpretive methods for each genre, and the application of those methods to sermon development. Attention will also be given to topical expository preaching, biblical theology in preaching, and to developing expository series from books as well as from topics.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the structure of the major biblical genres.
2. Explain how the literary devices of each genre communicate ideology.
3. Identify the unique characteristics of each genre.
4. Develop sermons from passages in each type of literature.
5. Demonstrate competence in biblical-theological method.
6. Develop and preach messages that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's needs.
7. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Synthesis, and Application.
8. Plan and preach topical expository series.
9. Plan and preach series through books of the Bible.
10. Integrate exegetical, theological, and homiletical methods in his/her preaching.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required Reading**

Alexander, T. Desmond and Rosner, Brian S. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*.  
Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.\*

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005. (400 pp.)

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002. (124 pp)

Gibson, Scott. *Preaching to a Shifting Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. (255 pp)

Grudem, Wayne. Editor. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (349 pp)

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (279 pp)

Oss, Douglas A. "Canon as Context: The Function of *Sensus Plenior* in Evangelical Hermeneutics."

GTJ 9:1 (Spring, 1988) 105-127.

Ryken, Leland, Wilhoit, James C., Longman, Tremper III. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers, Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1998. (available in Libronix).\*

### **Working Knowledge**

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

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

### **Reference**

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

Clowney, Edmund P. *The Unfolding Mystery*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

Dumbrell, William J. *Covenant and Creation*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The End of the Beginning*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Genre and preaching
  - a. Narrative
    - i. Structure

- ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- b. Poetry
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- c. Wisdom/Parables
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- d. Prophecy
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- e. Apocalyptic
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- f. Gospels
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods
- g. Epistle
  - i. Structure
  - ii. Literary Conventions
  - iii. Expository Methods

## II. Biblical Theology in Preaching

- a. Biblical theology defined
- b. The significance of the primary text
- c. The relationship of the primary text to the “string.”
- d. Nuts and bolts of doing biblical theology
- e. Incorporating biblical theology in sermons

## III. Topical Expository Preaching

- a. Based on biblical “strings.”
- b. Based on biblical characters (commonly called biographical sermons).
- c. Based on issues/needs.

## IV. Planning a preaching calendar

- a. Developing and planning series
  - i. Series through books
  - ii. Topical series
- b. Planning special days into the calendar
- c. Time-outs
- d. Pacing the series

- e. Details vs. the big idea

V. Summary

- a. Expository preaching in contemporary life
- b. The question of relevance
- c. The question of discipleship
- d. The question of courage

## METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, discussion, readings, and written assignments.
2. The first part of the course will focus primarily on lectures and discussion of methods.
3. The remainder of the course will be a workshop devoted to the nuts and bolts of doing sermons and series.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading.**

- a. Read all of Chappell, Clowney, Gibson, Grudem, Oss (“Canon”) and Mathewson.
- b. Read 100 additional pages from the two IVP dictionaries (some from Alexander and some from Ryken).
- c. Be familiar with the content of Kaiser and Robinson.
- d. Use the reference works as needed.

2. **Writing Assignments – Choose 3 of the 4 listed below:**

- a. **Biblical-Theological Paper.** Write a 10-12 page biblical-theological paper on a “string” (more commonly “image,” or “motif”) that begins in the OT (see the paper guide).
- b. **First Sermon.** Each student will prepare a 10 page manuscript of a topical expository message based on the biblical-theological paper. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper. As part of this assignment the student will also prepare a full sentence, homiletical outline of the sermon.
- c. **Second Sermon.** Each student will prepare full sentence exegetical, theological, and homiletical outlines of one passage from each major genre (for the Proverbs use Problem-Solution-Application outline). Choose one of these passages and prepare a 10 page manuscript of that sermon. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper.
- d. **Series.** Plan and delineate preaching units for: 1) a series through a book (a reasonable amount of the book if it’s gargantuan, e.g., Isaiah;

but if it's Ephesians, then the entire epistle), and 2) a six-part (6) topical series. Develop a homiletical proposition for each preaching unit to include with the calendar.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

1. Preaching is both artistic and technical. Therefore evaluation is partly empirical but also partly subjective. The "sermon" grade will be based on my subjective evaluation of the artistic side (don't worry) and the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling rhetoric since everything is written), and (4) Relevance (concrete images; developmental questions).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:
  - 10% On-Time Reading
  - 30% Biblical-Theological Paper
  - 60% Sermons (including manuscripts and outlines)
3. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

\*Thanks to Edgar Lee, Bill Lawrence, Tim Ralston, and Timothy Warren for some of the ideas and materials included in this course and syllabus.

\*\*Bibliography printed separately for distribution to class.