

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

***HOM 640 Narrative Preaching***

One Credit Hour

Mark Miller  
Stephen Lim, D.Min.

Fall 2004

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A two-day course looking at narrative preaching, and specifically at the current movement in American churches. Special attention will be given to the use of experience combined with narrative as an important and effective means of communicating in today's postmodern culture.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Develop a historical understanding of narrative preaching.
2. Understand the changing audience in the contemporary world.
3. Appreciate contemporary insights on the creative process and other factors involved in effectively communicating God's word.
4. Comprehend the basics involved in alternative methods of preaching— specifically adding experience as part of the communication.
5. Develop the ability to create narrative and experiential narrative forms of communicating.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Miller, Mark. *Experiential Storytelling: (Re) Discovering Narrative to Communicate God's Message*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

Simmons, Annette. *The Story Factor: Inspiration, Influence, and Persuasion through the Art of Storytelling*. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2002.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

1. Understanding the Audience in a Changing World
2. A Historical Look at Narrative Preaching
3. Contemporary Insights into Alternative Forms of Preaching
4. Understanding Experiential Storytelling Methods in Communication
5. Keys to Using These Methods in Communication
6. Applications in Alternative Preaching Methods to Communicate to a Postmodern Audience
7. Developing Resources to Seed Creativity in Developing Narrative and Experiential Sermons

### **METHODOLOGY**

This course will employ class discussion, exercises and lecture.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Pre-Session:**

1. Read the required text.
2. Write a two page critique of the required text. Include personal insights that you gained from the reading. This is **due at the first session of class.**

#### **Post-Session:**

1. Submission of Narrative or Experiential Narrative "Sermon".
2. Submit work postmarked no later than **November 1, 2004** to:

Mark Miller  
13434 Cedar Road  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Participation | 20% |
| Text Summary                 | 20% |
| Sermon Submission            | 60% |