

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**HOM 633 Preaching Laboratory**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A course which focuses on the development of the verbal and nonverbal communication skills for effective preaching and oral reading of Scripture. The basic principles of voice quality and tone, expressions and gestures, and overall platform manners are examined. The student's verbal and nonverbal communication skills are evaluated through delivery critique forms and video tapes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will have demonstrated in class preaching and in written sermons and sermon outlines:

- 1 . A basic familiarity with the process of developing sermons from the biblical text.
- 2 . Facility in outlining sermons for delivery to an audience.
- 3 . A growing ability to present the sermon to an audience.
- 4 . An awareness of the crucial role of preaching in the modern church.
- 5 . An increased capacity for critical evaluation of sermons.

**TEXTBOOKS**

***Required***

Chapell, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.  
Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.  
Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

**METHODOLOGY**

- 1 . The first part of the course will entail a limited number of lectures and discussions of homiletical theory in an attempt to establish a basic level of preparation for each student.
- 2 . The remainder of the course, and the major focus, will be devoted to student sermons presented in the classroom setting and critiqued by the professor, fellow students, and the student-preacher after reviewing the video of the sermon.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 . Readings. The student is expected to read the textbooks by Chapell, Johnston, and Long in their entirety and provide a statement of completion on the last day of class. The student should also expect carefully to study relevant commentaries and theologies to illuminate the biblical text for sermon preparation.
- 2 . Sermons. The student is expected to preach four (4) sermons in class during the semester. Sermon No. 1 will be topical; Sermon No. 2 will be expository/textual; Sermon No. 3 will be narrative; Sermon No. 4 will be “post/modern.” The sermons are to be approximately twenty minutes in length and may be topical or textual/expository, but must be biblical.
  - a . A full outline of the sermon must be submitted to the professor by noon of the day before it is to be preached. Failure to do so may result in a grade reduction of a letter grade on the sermon. The outline must conform to the basic pattern provided by the professor and must include full sentences or phrases that adequately convey the student’s thought on each point.
  - b. The student should demonstrate in the sermon outline and delivery that the sermon has been carefully researched and crafted for biblical and theological integrity and effective communication. The study of relevant commentaries, theologies, and homiletical resources is basic to the course requirements.
  - c. The student is to provide each member of the class with a typed, one-page outline of the sermon on the day it is preached. Copies of the outline will be made by the faculty secretary if submitted by 10:00 A.M. on the assigned preaching day.
  - d . The student is expected to provide a video tape for recording the sermon, review the tape within two days of the preaching date, and submit to the professor a typed, two-three page self-critique within three days of the preaching date.
  - e . The student is expected to be prepared to preach in class on the dates assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment.
3. Evaluation and Logistics. Each student is expected to assist in the logistics of the class by evaluating peers with a sermon evaluation form to be provided by the professor and by becoming familiar with the operation of the video camera and other equipment.

Participation. Each student is expected to prepare for the class by attending regularly, arriving promptly, treating colleagues considerately, completing reading assignments, participating in peer evaluations, preaching and submitting sermons on schedule, assisting with logistics, and entering into discussions. The professor reserves the right to allocate 10 percent of the total grade on the basis of class participation.

## GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be determined primarily by averaging the grades of the four sermons preached before the class (this includes the outline, the delivery, and the self-critique) with the possibility of 10 percent being allocated for participation as defined above

Sermons = 25% Each  
[Participation = 10%]

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.

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### ***Contemporary Homiletical Communication***

- Carson, D. A., ed. *Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Post-Moderns*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching that Connects: Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Johnson, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
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#### ***Exegesis and Hermeneutics***

- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
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- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Williamson, Lamar, Jr. *Preaching the Gospel of John: Proclaiming the Living Word*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004.

#### ***History***

- Dargan, Edwin Charles. *A History of Preaching*. Reprint. [Volume III by Ralph G. Turnbull

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- Brilioth, Yngve. *A Brief History of Preaching*. Trans. Karl E. Mattson. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.

### ***Illustration***

- Chapell, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.
- Flynn, Leslie B. *Come Alive with Illustrations: How to Find, Use, and File Good Stories for Sermons and Speeches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Macpherson, Ian. *The Art of Illustrating Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1964.
- Wiersbe, Warren W (ed.). *Developing a Christian Imagination: An Interpretive Anthology*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1995.

### ***Lectionaries and Guides***

*Abingdon Preaching Annual* [annual editions; var. eds.]

### ***Methodology***

- Berkley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbook of Preaching and Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
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- Hamilton, Donald L. *Homiletical Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992. BV/4211.2/.H27
- Olford, Stephen F. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Perry, Lloyd M. *Biblical Preaching for Today's World*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Biblical Sermons: How Twelve Preachers Apply the Principles of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.

### ***Theology***

- Barth, Karl. *Homiletics*. Trans. G.W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Kinlaw, Dennis F. *Preaching in the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Francis Asbury Press, 1985.
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- Mounce, Robert H. *The Essential Nature of New Testament Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1960.

### ***Theory/General***

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- Baumann, J. Daniel. *An Introduction to Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972.

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**Websites**

[list begun by AGTS alum, Dr. D. Tucker, VFCC]

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