

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM 529 Communicating the Message

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Spring 2006

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive course dealing with essential and creative elements in the development of sermons. Attention will be given to all aspects of preparation and composition and to each part of the message. The theology and history of preaching, contemporary perspectives, methods, development of resources, and sermon analysis will also be considered. This course will enhance the skills of veteran preachers while providing a solid foundation for the less experienced.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of the course requirements students will be able to:

1. Explain the central themes of the biblical theology of preaching.
2. Develop messages that reflect ACCURACY of the biblical text, CLARITY of organization, INTEREST to the audience, and RELEVANCE to the listener's needs.
3. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.
4. Explain and utilize the components of sermon construction.
5. Define the basic preaching genres.
6. Critique and analyze the expository preaching of other speakers.
7. Critique and analyze his/her own expository preaching.

TEXTBOOKS

Quicke, Michael J. *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids/Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Baker Academic/Paternoster, 2003.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages, 2nd edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Homiletical Foundations

- A. A Biblical Theology of Preaching
- B. Personal Preparation for Preaching
- C. Preaching Models
- D. Components of Message Preparation
- E. Dynamics of Message Delivery
- F. Audience Analysis and Message Orientation
- G. Developing a Preaching Calendar
- H. The Goal of Preaching

II. Class Preaching

METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, student preaching, class discussions, professor and peer critiques, video presentations, as well as readings and written assignments.
2. The first part of the course will focus on lectures and discussions of the biblical theology of preaching, preaching theory, and key elements of practice.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons presented in the classroom setting. Those sermons will be videotaped and critiqued by the professor, fellow students, and the student-preacher.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***NOTE** – Spring Study Break –February 27 – March 3 (No regular classes will meet.)
Chapel – Tuesday, March 7, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

1. **Reading:** read the required textbooks and submit a statement of completion. **Due Date: 11.8.05**
2. **Sermons:** Each student will prepare and give two messages in the course of the semester.
3. **First Round of Preaching:** Prepare and give a 12-minute message expounding an entire one verse (two line) Proverb. See the “Sign-Up” sheet. Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade reduction.
 - a. In preparation for the first message, each student will prepare a 1 pg. (single-spaced) summary explaining/defending his/her exegetical observations and conclusions. This assignment should be turned in to the professor **two weeks prior** to giving the message in class. An initial exegetical outline and exegetical proposition should be part of this assignment. Late work carries a full letter grade deduction.
 - b. Each speaker will condense his/her homiletical outline to one page for distribution to the class on the day he/she preaches. All first round outlines will use the

following structure:

Main Point I. The Problem (stated in full-sentence form)

Main Point II. The Solution (full-sentence)

Main Point III. The Application (full, **imperative** sentence).

- c. By **noon of the day before you speak**, submit a full sentence outline to the professor. This outline should be carried to the third level of subordination (e.g., I.A.1.a). If you are not on campus the day before you speak, call my voice mail or e-mail me stating that the outline has been typed. Late work carries a full letter grade deduction.
 - d. Each student will provide a videotape for the recording of his/her sermon. The student is expected to review the video of the sermon within one week and submit to the professor a two page self-critique at the **next class session** following the preaching date. Late work carries a full letter grade deduction.
 - e. The student is expected to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one full-letter grade for the in-class preaching assignment. Alternate dates will be arranged in case of emergencies.
4. **Second Round of Preaching:** Prepare and give a 15-minute message expounding an entire Psalm. Students are not expected to explain every verse of the Psalm during the sermon, but are expected to preach the message of the entire Psalm. See the “Sign-Up sheet. Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade deduction.
- a. Each speaker again will condense his/her homiletical outline to one page for distribution to the class on the day he/she preaches. All second round outlines will use the following structure:
 - Main Point I. Exegetical Proposition** (stated in full sentence form; what the central proposition was “**then.**”)
 - Main Point II. Theological Proposition** (full sentence; what the central proposition is “**always.**”)
 - Main Point III. Homiletical Proposition** (full, imperative sentence; what the central proposition is “**now.**”)
 - b. By **noon of the day before you speak**, submit a full sentence outline to the professor. This outline should be carried to the third level of subordination (e.g., I.A.1.a). If you are not on campus the day before you speak, call my voice mail or e-mail me stating that the outline has been typed. Late work carries a full letter grade deduction.
 - c. Also by noon of the day before you speak, submit a full manuscript of the message (roughly ten pages). The manuscript should reflect the content of your actual delivery, and read like a preached message, not like an academic research paper.
 - d. Each student will provide a videotape for the recording of his/her sermon. The student is expected to review the video of the sermon within one week and submit to the professor a two page self-critique at the **next class session** following the preaching date. Late work carries a full letter grade deduction.

- e. The student is expected to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one full-letter grade for that assignment. Alternate dates will be arranged in case of emergencies.
- f. The outlines required for HOM 529 are only two of many options. But they require the student to get at the heart of homiletical issues related to the text and its application, as well as allowing the student to focus on sound Bible exposition.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Preaching is an art and therefore evaluation is partly empirical but also partly subjective. The “sermon” grade will be based on my subjective evaluation and the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling delivery), and (4) Relevance (concrete images; developmental questions).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

5%	Exegetical summary/defense/proposition
25%	First Message (including outlines)
30%	Second Message (including outlines and manuscript)
10%	On-Time Reading Completion
20%	Self-critiques (10% each)
10%	Class Participation (attendance, meaningful dialogue, attitude, thoughtful and supportive peer evaluation, assistance in logistics) [The professor reserves the right to adjust grades further for outstanding class participation.]
3. Assignments will be given a letter grade which 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, and Tim Ralston for their ideas and material included in this syllabus.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Contemporary Homiletical Communication

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- Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching that Connects: Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
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Exegesis and Hermeneutics

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- Allen, Ronald J. *Contemporary Biblical Interpretation for Preaching*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson, 1984. BS534.5/.A45
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
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- _____. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981. BS/476/.K34
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History

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- Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.

Illustration

- Chapel, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.
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Theology

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Internet

Most of the following websites were compiled by AGTS adjunct and VFCC professor, Dr. Don Tucker, for his homiletics class; utilize and add to their number.

www.childrens-sermons.com

www.esermons.com
www.georgewood.com
www.homileticonline.com
www.lectionary.com
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www.soulsunami.com
www.textweek.com
www.todayspreacher.faithsite.com