

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM 633 Communicating the Message II

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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. The course also focuses on instruction in preaching from biblical stories, emphasizing the hermeneutics of biblical narrative and related homiletical method.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Develop expositional-narrative sermons from biblical stories that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's life.
2. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.
3. Utilize homiletically sound outlining methods in sermons.
4. Give sermons in such a way that the listener gives attention to the message and comprehends the main points and central theme, and grow toward realizing his/her potential for compelling delivery.
5. Convince an audience of the theological interpretation and relevant application of a biblical narrative.
6. Read the Scriptures in interesting and clear ways so that the listener gives attention to and comprehends the meaning of the text.
7. Explain the pivotal role of expository preaching in the modern church.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

Chapell, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

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

[NOTE: This course assumes working knowledge of Robinson's *Biblical Preaching*.]

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Hermeneutics of Narrative
 - a. Narratology and Story
 - b. Narrative Preaching
 - c. Interpreting Narratives
 - d. Narrative Exposition
- II. Listener Hermeneutics of Live Preaching
 - a. Oral Clarity
 - b. Physical Movement
 - c. Projecting Ethos
 - d. Leading through Preaching
- III. Sermons
 - a. Preparatory Assignments
 - b. Sermon delivery
 - c. Long Term Sermon Development

METHODOLOGY

1. The first part of the course will entail lectures and discussions of homiletical and narratological theory and methods.
2. The remainder of the course, and the major focus, will be devoted to student sermons, and related assignments. Sermons will be preached in the classroom setting and critiqued by the professor, fellow students, and the student-preacher (after reviewing the video of the sermon). This course is a workshop in expository preaching from narrative. So, the class will spend much time on the nuts and bolts of going from text to sermon to delivery.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CHAPEL –

1. **Readings.** The student is expected to read the textbooks by Chapell and Johnston in their entirety, and chs. 9 and 11 in Greidanus. Read the material in Ross that is relevant to your work in Genesis, and use his outlines in preparing your own. Also, the student will **submit a statement of completion by no later than the scheduled final exam period for HOM 633.** Read the chapters in Greidenaus as early as possible in the semester.
2. **Sermons.** The student will preach two (2) sermons in class during the semester.
3. **Round I Preaching: Sermons from Acts or the Gospel of John.**
Each student will prepare and deliver a 15 minute message from a story in John or Acts. The student may choose to preach a smaller portion of the chapter he/she chooses as long as an entire story unit is covered. There will be two preparatory

- assignments for the sermon, as well as the delivery of the sermon itself.
- a. **Exegetical and Theological Outlines/Propositions.** Each student will prepare a one page exegetical outline with proposition and a one page theological outline with proposition of the student's chosen story in Acts or John. **A copy of these outlines will be due to the professor at the beginning of class two weeks prior to her/his preaching date.**
 - b. **Sermon Series Project.** The hypothetical setting for this particular assignment is: you are planning to preach through Acts or John on Sunday mornings. Use only Acts 1-12 or John 1-9 for this exercise. (1) Identify the preaching units (do not skip any verses) for either Acts 1-12 or John 1-9. A preaching unit is simply the text you plan to use for each sermon. Identify the preaching units by listing the chapter and verse parameters for each sermon. (2) Then state the *theological subject* for each of the preaching units (the "always" subject as opposed to, e.g., the exegetical subject which would be the historical, "then," principle). Keep it simple, stating only the theological subject. You are only "roughing out" a series, not polishing one for delivery. Also, give a separate, overall title and central theme statement for the entire series. This assignment is due at the beginning of class one week after the student's preaching date for the Acts/John Sermon.
 - c. **Acts/John Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver a 15 minute message from a story in the student's chosen chapter in Acts/John. **A full manuscript and separate, detailed homiletical outline (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) are due to the professor at the beginning of class one week before you preach.** Late work will receive at least a full letter grade deduction. Exceeding the time limit when preaching will result in at least a full letter grade deduction.
 - d. The student is to provide each member of the class with the homiletical outline of the sermon on the day it is preached.
 - e. The student is expected to review his/her DVD and submit to the professor a typed, two page (double-spaced), self-critique due at the beginning of class one week after preaching the sermon.
 - f. The student is required to preach in class on the dates assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of at least one letter grade for that assignment, barring emergencies.
4. **Round II Preaching: Sermons from Genesis.**
1. Each student will prepare and deliver (without notes) a 15 minute message from a story in Genesis (Use Ross to delineate the story units.). ******(There are two primary reasons for learning to preach without notes. First, preaching without notes demands a higher level of internalization, focus and clarity [unity, order, progress of thought, and precision with words]. Second, speaking without notes promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the goal of preaching which is life change and growth in following Christ.). Focus on mastering content rather than reciting the script.

- a. **Homiletical Outline/Proposition.** Each student will prepare a detailed homiletical outline (with homiletical proposition) of the entire (all the verses) story the student chooses in Genesis. A paper copy of the outline will be due to the professor at the beginning of class two weeks prior to his/her preaching date. The student will base the homiletical outline and proposition on Ross' exegetical and expositional outlines in his book, *Creation and Blessing*.
 - b. **Genesis Manuscript.** Each student will prepare a full manuscript of the sermon polished for delivery. It should read like a sermon, not a research paper. The manuscript will be due to the professor at the beginning of class one week prior to his/her preaching date. Late work will receive a full letter grade deduction. Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade deduction.
 - c. The student is to provide each member of the class with the homiletical outline of the sermon on the day it is preached.
 - d. The student is also to review the DVD of his/her message within one week of the preaching date, and submit to the professor a typed, two page, self-critique due at the next class session.
 - e. The student is required to preach in class on the dates assigned. Failure to do so will result in at least a full letter grade penalty for that assignment, barring emergencies.
5. **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 adjust the total grade on the basis of class participation.

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, effectiveness).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

40% Acts/John Sermon (and related assignments)
40% Genesis Sermon (and related assignments)
20% Reading, class participation
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.

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

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