

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM/BNT 623 Expository Preaching in the Gospels and Acts

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Fall, 2008
Mondays, 1:30-4:15 PM, Room 228 & Chapel
Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM¹

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines New Testament narrative books as well as the skills and methods necessary for developing expository messages from the OT/NT narrative material with a focus on Luke and Acts. Homiletical methods and elements of sermoncraft are reviewed, and special attention is given to how to preach a parable, and to create a sermon series. Prereq: HOM 529 and HOM 633.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Design sermons and series that are organizationally coherent;
2. Craft sermons of interest and impact;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the value of narrative preaching;
4. Develop expository sermons from narrative passages; and
5. Deliver effective narrative sermons on narrative material.

TEXTBOOKS

The Bible in a contemporary, literal or dynamic-equivalence translation.

Green, Joel B. *Gospel of Luke*, revised. *New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Witherington, Ben, III. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

¹ Please schedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance for as many 15-minute segments as you need. Knock when you arrive for an appointment. You may use my office hours to discuss matters related to class or to talk about life.

COURSE OUTLINE²

1. Introduction to Course
2. Introduction to Luke/Acts
3. Homiletical Methods & Lab Session
4. Round 1 (Expository Sermon):
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching
5. Introduction to Parables & Lab Session
6. Round 2 (Preaching a Parable):
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching
7. Narrative Methods & Lab Session
8. Round 2 (Narrative Sermon):
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching

METHODOLOGY

1. During class sessions, this course utilizes
 - a. lectures and discussion,
 - b. laboratory practice on exegesis and homiletics,
 - c. delivery and brief discussion of student sermons.
2. Outside of class, students
 - a. read on narrative methods,
 - b. research their sermons' texts,
 - c. design and write their own messages,
 - d. review and edit a peer's manuscript and outline,
 - d. evaluate and reflect on their own sermons,
 - e. receive one-on-one coaching in the professor's office.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS³

1. **Readings**²
Read (and confirm in writing on RECORD OF READING FORM) 1,000 pages during the semester. About half of the reading should be on Luke and Acts; about half should be on homiletics, especially narrative preaching.
 - a. In Peterson's, *The Message*, read all general Introductions ("Preface to the Reader," "Introduction to *The Message*," "Introduction to the New Testament," "Introduction to Luke," and "Introduction to Acts.")
 - b. Read (with eyes or ears) the biblical texts of The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles.
 - c. Read the introductions to Luke and Acts in the required commentaries.
 - d. Research the biblical texts from which your sermon series originates.
 - e. Read Lowry's, *How to Preach a Parable*.

² See DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE for session dates and assignment due dates.

³ Submit all assignments to the Faculty Work Study, Joe Pence, JPence@AGTS.edu by email. He will print and date-stamp the time each arrived.

See RECORD OF SCORES to the weight of each of the assignments.

f. Read your choice of selections from the BIBLIOGRAPHY ON NARRATIVE PREACHING.

2. Sermon Series⁴

- a. Email the 15-page summary of your three-part series of sermons from Luke-Acts. The first sermon should be an expository sermon, the second a sermon on a parable, and the third a narrative sermon. Each sermon should use a different homiletical approach/development technique.)
- b. Include a title page (in Turabian form, with student's box number), table of contents (including series title, sermon titles, text references, and so on³), a bibliography, an appendix (if appropriate) and a 12-page content summary, 4-pages on each message. Begin the first message with an introduction to the series. Drawing from the manuscripts of your preached sermons, script each sermon's introduction, invitation, illustrations, applications, and transitions. Outline other content, capturing the most important facts.

3. Preaching

- a. You will have the opportunity to preach all three of your sermons in class this semester. Both an outline and manuscript are due by noon, the Friday before you preach each round. (The outline and manuscript scores are based on their arrival time.) The Friday due date is for your benefit—to give you the weekend to memorize the manuscript, word for word, and to memorize the outline, thought for thought.
- b. When you preach in class, you should not be dependent on notes or manuscript. At that time your sermons will be graded on content and delivery.⁵ Bring copies of your outline for each class member (to be distributed after you preach, so they can evaluate if they caught your outline).
- c. After you preach, watch your DVD, fully complete a Feedback form on yourself (both sides). Then, drawing from what you saw and what you have read, write a two-page Plan for Improvement in your next sermon and those which follow.

4. Peer Review

- a. The week before you preach in front of the whole class and professor you will have the opportunity to practice preach to your small group and be reviewed. Make the most of this valuable two-way learning experience!
- b. By noon, the Friday before your practice preaching, email your small group partner (who will change each round) your outline and manuscript. He or she will edit and return them to you at the practice preaching session. When you email the Round 3 outline and manuscript, also send the Sermon Series final assignment for editing.
- c. Following this practice session, perfect your outline and manuscript and polish your delivery.
- d. Then email a grade on the editor's work on your outline and manuscript, based on how thorough and helpful his or her work was to you.

⁴ See SAMPLE SERMON SERIES as a model of the requirements.

See DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE for session dates and assignment due dates.

⁵ See SERMON FEEDBACK FORM for scoring criteria.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Record of Reading is based on quantity.
2. Written work is graded on content, writing, and form (Turabian).
3. Preached Sermons are graded on content and delivery.
4. Editors are graded by the value of their work to their peer.
5. Late assignments receive no credit. Incomplete grades are not given.

GRADING SCALE**100-point Percent Scale**

100 %	=	A+
93-99	=	A
<u>90-92</u>	=	<u>A-</u>
87-89	=	B+
83-86	=	B
<u>80-82</u>	=	<u>B-</u>
77-79	=	C+
73-76	=	C
<u>70-72</u>	=	<u>C-</u>
67-69	=	D+
63-66	=	D
<u>60-62</u>	=	<u>D-</u>
0-59	=	F

1000-point Semester Total

1000 points	=	A+
930-999 points	=	A
<u>900-929 points</u>	=	<u>A-</u>
870-899 points	=	B+
830-869 points	=	B
<u>800-829 points</u>	=	<u>B-</u>
770-779 points	=	C+
730-769 points	=	C
<u>700-729 points</u>	=	<u>C-</u>
670-699 points	=	D+
630-669 points	=	D
<u>600-629 points</u>	=	<u>D-</u>
0-599 points	=	F

RECORD OF SCORES**I. PREACHING ASSIGNMENTS
(3 @ 20%, i.e., 200 points each)***Round One Sermon*

A. Sermon Manuscript	_____	/10
B. Sermon Outline	_____	/5
C. Sermon Content	_____	/100
D. In-Class Delivery	_____	/50
E. Feedback Form on Self	_____	/10
F. Plan for Improvement	_____	/25
ROUND 1 SUBTOTAL	=====	/200

Round Two Sermon

A. Sermon Manuscript	_____	/10
B. Sermon Outline	_____	/5
C. Sermon Content	_____	/100
D. In-Class Delivery	_____	/50
E. Feedback Form on Self	_____	/10
F. Plan for Improvement	_____	/25
ROUND 2 SUBTOTAL	=====	/200

Round Three Sermon

A. Sermon Manuscript	_____	/10
B. Sermon Outline	_____	/5
C. Sermon Content	_____	/100
D. In-Class Delivery	_____	/50
E. Feedback Form on Self	_____	/10
F. Plan for Improvement	_____	/25
ROUND 3 SUBTOTAL	=====	/200

PREACHING SUBTOTAL _____/600 points 60%

II. WRITTEN SERMON SERIES (1 @ 20%, i.e., 200 points total)

A. Biblical Content	_____	/100
B. Creativity, Interest, and Impact	_____	/50
C. Form and Writing	_____	/50

SERIES SUBTOTAL _____/200 points 20%

III. RECORD OF READING (1 @ 10%, i.e., 100 points total)

- Quantity (1,000 pages required) _____/100 points 10%

IV. EDITORIAL WORK (4 @ 2.5%, i.e., 100 points total)

A. A Peer's Round 1 MS & Outline	_____	/25
B. A Peer's Round 2 MS & Outline	_____	/25
C. A Peer's Round 3 MS & Outline	_____	/25
D. A Peer's Sermon Series	_____	/25

READINGS SUBTOTAL _____/100 points 10%

TOTAL SCORE _____/1000 points 100%

FINAL GRADE _____