

**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**

Any Logos Bible Software package. (Professor will tell students how to obtain software at a discount on the first day of class). \*Some books can be bought through *Libronics* at a substantial discount. <http://www.logos.com/>

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. (Libronics or Hard Copy) ISBN 0802803601

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. (Libronics or Hard Copy) ISBN: 0801063671

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988. (Libronics or Hard Copy) ISBN: 0801021073

[NOTE: This course assumes working knowledge of Haddon 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

1. **Readings.** The student is expected to read the textbooks by 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 e-mail to the professor no later than **last day of class**. 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 12 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. An electronic document of these outlines will be due to the professor by e-mail **two weeks prior** to her/his preaching date. Late work not accepted.
  - 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. An electronic document of this assignment is due to the professor by e-mail **one week after** the student's preaching date for the Acts/John Sermon. Late work not accepted.
  - c. **Acts/John Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver a 12 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 by e-mail **one week before** his/her preaching date. Late work not accepted. 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. Each student will review the DVD of the sermon and submit to the professor by email a two-page (double-spaced) self-critique.
  - 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 12 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. The student will base the homiletical outline and proposition on Ross' exegetical and expositional outlines in his book, *Creation and Blessing*. An electronic document of this outline will be due to the professor by e-mail **two weeks prior** to his/her preaching date. Late work not accepted.
  - b. **Genesis Manuscript.** Each student will prepare and deliver a 12 minute message from a story in the student's chosen chapter in Genesis. **A full manuscript** is due to the professor by e-mail **one week before** his/her preaching date. Late work not accepted. Exceeding the time limit when preaching will result in at least 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. Each student will review the DVD of the sermon and submit to the professor by email a two-page (double-spaced) self-critique.
  - 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.

\*\*Thanks to Edgar Lee, Timothy Warren, Tim Ralston, and Bill Lawrence for their ideas and materials included in this course.

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

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