

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**HOM 529 Communicating the Message**

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Fall 2003

**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 this course students will have demonstrated:

1. A biblical understanding of the nature of preaching and the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching.
2. A basic familiarity and facility with gathering resources and developing sermons from the biblical text.
3. An understanding of traditional and contemporary forms of preaching, e.g. expository, topical, narrative, seeker-sensitive, etc.
4. A growing capacity to critique sermons in terms of theological and biblical authenticity and effectiveness in communication.
5. A demonstrated capacity to understand, critique, and improve personal processes of sermon preparation and delivery.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Johnson, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.

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

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. Homiletical Foundations

- A. A Biblical Theology of Preaching
- B. Personal Preparation for Preaching
- C. Traditional and Contemporary Sermon Forms
- D. Components of Sermon Development
- E. Aspects of Sermon Delivery
- F. Audience Analysis and Sermon Orientation
- G. Preaching and the Christian Year

### 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 homiletical theology, theory, and practice in an attempt to ensure a basic level of preparation for each student.
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

1. The student is expected to read the textbooks in their entirety and submit a two-page (double-spaced) critique of each that assesses its contributions to the student's personal growth as a preacher. **Due dates** are: *Robinson*, **Tuesday, 9/30**; *Johnson*, **Thursday, 10/30**; *Lowry*, **Tuesday, 11/25**.
2. The student is expected to submit four carefully researched and written sermons in the course of the semester. Three may be in full outlines with each point explained in one or more complete sentences that clearly communicate meaning; one must be a full manuscript (double spaced and approximately 10 pages in length). **Due dates** are: Sermon 1, **Thursday, 10/16**; Sermon 2, **Thursday, 10/30**; Sermon 3, **Thursday, 11/13**; Sermon 4, **Thursday 12/11**.
3. The student is expected to preach one of the required four sermons before the class on a date to be assigned. The sermon is to be about twenty minutes in length and may be topical, expository/textual, narrative, or seeker but must be biblical (based on and true to the chosen biblical text as well as the larger context of Scripture).

- a. A full outline (or manuscript) of the sermon must be submitted to the professor by noon of the day before it is to be preached. Failure to do so will result in a grade reduction of one letter.
- 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 immediately review the video tape of the sermon and submit to the professor **a typed (double-spaced), two-three page self-critique** at the next class session following the preaching date.
- e. The student is expected to be prepared to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment. Alternate dates will be arranged in case of emergencies.
- f. The sermon grade will be based upon the level of excellence in (1) the understanding and explication of the text, (2) the development and writing of the sermon outline/manuscript, (3) the sermon delivery, and (4) the candor and insight of the sermon critique.

### GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be determined primarily by averaging the grades of the four sermons and the textbook critiques as shown below. Since the effectiveness of the laboratory component of the course depends heavily upon peer participation, the professor reserves the right to adjust for a “participation” component” for either poor classroom participation or exceptional classroom participation (e.g. presence, dialogue, attitude, thoughtful peer evaluation, assistance in logistics, etc.).

Manuscript Sermon	=	20 %
Sermon Outlines	=	30 %
Preaching Exercise and Critique	=	20 %
Textbook Critiques	=	30 %
<i>[Participation = 20%]</i>		

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.

**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.
- Hybells, Bill; Stuart D. Briscoe; and Haddon W. Robinson. *Mastering Contemporary Preaching*. Portland: Multnomah, 1989. BV4211.2/.H93
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Evangelistic Preaching that Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh & Appealing Sermons*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995. BV/4211.2/.L674
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching Sermons that Connect: Effective Communication through Identification*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

***Exegesis and Hermeneutics***

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth Rice. *Preaching from the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989. BS1191.5/.A24
- 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.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament in Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973. BS/1171.2/K27
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981. BS/476/.K34
- Klein, George L. (ed.). *Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle: Preaching the Old Testament Faithfully*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992. BS/1191.5/.R43
- Long Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.

***History***

- Dargan, Edwin Charles. *A History of Preaching*. Reprint. [Volume III by Ralph G. Turnbull (Baker, 1974)] Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1970.
- 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***

- Chapel, 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.
- Wilson-Kastner, Patricia. *Imagery for Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989. BV4226/.W55

### **Theology**

- Adam, Peter. *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Expository Preaching*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.
- Barth, Karl *Homiletics*. Trans. G.W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Kinlaw, Demis F. *Preaching in the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Francis Asbury Press, 1985.
- Marcel, Pierre Ch. *The Relevance of Preaching*. Trans. Rob Roy McGregor. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1963.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Essential Nature of New Testament Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1960.
- Wingren, Gustaf. *The Living Word: A Theological Study of Preaching and the Church*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1960. BV4216/.W513

### **Theory/General**

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- Achtemeier, Elizabeth Rice. *Preaching as Theology and Art*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984. BV4211.2/.A28
- Baumann, J. Daniel. *An Introduction to Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972.
- Bennett, Bill. *Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead: How You Can Preach Your Best Sermon Yet This Sunday*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991. BV4211.2/.B44
- Berkley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbook of Preaching and Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Bodey, Richard Allen (ed.). *Inside the Sermon: Thirteen Preachers Discuss their Methods of Preparing Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990. BV/4211.2/.157
- Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structure*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. BV4211.2/.C455
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- Howe, Reuel L. *Partners in Preaching: Clergy and Laity in Dialogue*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1967.
- Long Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- MacArthur, John [and the Master's Seminary faculty, Richard L. Mahue (ed.)]. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992. BV/4211.2/.M16.

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- Perry, Lloyd M. *Biblical Preaching for Today's World*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.
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- Willimon, William H. *Integrative Preaching: The Pulpit at the Center*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981. BV4211.2/.W5
- Wogaman, J. Philip. *Speaking the Truth in Love: Prophetic Preaching to a Broken World*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1998.

### 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](http://www.childrens-sermons.com)  
[www.esermons.com](http://www.esermons.com)  
[www.georgewood.com](http://www.georgewood.com)  
[www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com)  
[www.lectionary.com](http://www.lectionary.com)  
[www.mtsm.org/preach.htm](http://www.mtsm.org/preach.htm)  
[www.mumac.org/ppcss.html](http://www.mumac.org/ppcss.html)  
[www.pastorshelper.com](http://www.pastorshelper.com)  
[www.preacherstudy.com](http://www.preacherstudy.com)  
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[www.preaching.org](http://www.preaching.org)  
[www.preachingplus.com](http://www.preachingplus.com)  
[www.preachingsummit.org](http://www.preachingsummit.org)  
[www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com)  
[www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com)  
[www.sermonillustrations.com](http://www.sermonillustrations.com)  
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[www.soulsunami.com](http://www.soulsunami.com)  
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