

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HOM 529 Communicating the Message

Stephen Lim, D.Min.

Fall 2001

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a biblical and historical understanding of preaching, including the role of the Holy Spirit in the communication of divine truth.
2. Understand the changing audience in the contemporary world.
3. Appreciate contemporary insights on preaching and the factors in effective communication.
4. Comprehend basic and alternative methods of preaching—including expository, narrative, topical, inductive, application, and seeker-sensitive.
5. Gain increased competence in the essential elements of sermon preparation.
6. Develop the systematic practice of collecting resources—including illustrations, outlines, and content.
7. Develop the ability to critique messages, so as to maximize effective factors and minimize ineffective ones in sermon preparation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Duduit, Michael, ed. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1992

_____,ed. *Communicating with Power: Insights from America's Top Communicators*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996.

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

Selected readings will be distributed during the course.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching That Connects*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Henderson, David. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. A Biblical and Historical Understanding of Preaching
2. Understanding the Audience in a Changing World
3. Contemporary Insights and Perspectives on Preaching
4. Factors for Effective Communication
5. Methods and Styles of Preaching
6. Developing Resources for Sermons
7. Foundations for Preaching
8. Discerning and Planning Messages
9. Preparing the Message
10. Refining the Message
11. Delivering the Message

METHODOLOGY

This course will employ class discussion, exercises, and assignments, peer critique groups, sermon analysis, audio and video presentations, student presentations, and lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. For each of the required textbooks, write a two page typewritten critique, evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, and areas and points of special value to you.
2. Collect 10 contemporary illustrations per week. Illustrations may come from personal experiences. Indicate the source of each. Use a uniform system of organization—either using index cards or computer files. Submit illustrations every four weeks for 12 weeks, for a combined total of 120. No more than 10 percent should come from collections in books or magazines.

3. Outline and evaluate 2 sermons per week. These may come from church, chapel, tape, television, or radio. Submit every four weeks for 12 weeks for a combined total of 24.
4. *Utilizing the principles and ideas from your reading, write out in full* the following messages:

10 minute message on the subject and with the method of your choice

25-30 minute *expository* message from the OT or NT

25-30 minute *narrative* message from the OT or NT (the one you *didn't* select above)

25-30 minute *topical* message for *seekers*

These messages should be accompanied by a complete outline, preceded by the following information:

Creative title

Topic

Intended Audience

Purpose

Essential point (stated in a short, simple sentence)

Need addressed (Itch)

Solution offered (Scratch)

On both manuscript and outline, indicate **illustrations** and **applications** with a bold heading.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading analysis	10%
Collection of illustrations	5%
Sermon outlines & evaluation	5%
10 minute sermon	5%
Expository sermon	15%
Narrative sermon	15%
Topical-seeker sermon	15%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (Attached)

SPECIFIC DATA: Syllabus prepared by Stephen Lim, June 5, 2001

HOM 529 COMMUNICATING THE MESSAGE

Dr. Steve Lim

Fall 2001

This is a comprehensive course dealing with the essential and creative elements in the development of sermons. It will enhance the understanding, skills, and resources of the experienced preacher and provide a thorough foundation for the beginner.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 1. A Biblical and Historical Understanding of Preaching**
- 2. Understanding the Audience in a Changing World**
- 3. Contemporary Insights and Perspectives on Preaching**
- 4. Factors for Effective Communication**
- 4. Methods and Styles of Preaching**
- 5. Developing Resources for Sermons**
- 6. Foundations for Preaching**
- 7. Discerning and Planning Messages**
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- 9. Refining the Message**
- 10. Delivering the Message**

