



Taylor Seminary

PW 431 Introduction to Preaching

Fall Semester 2013

Taylor Seminary's Mission

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

INSTRUCTOR: Lyle Buyer
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COURSE WEIGHT: 3 credits

PRE-REQUISITE: BI 412 Biblical Hermeneutics

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course consists of a study of the foundations and fundamentals of biblical preaching. Learning how to develop biblical sermons will be the primary focus of this course. This course will also give students the opportunity to preach in class. These preached sermons will be evaluated by the Instructor and by the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Articulate the biblical commitments that will govern your preaching ministry.
2. Listen to sermons in a way that not only enhances your spiritual growth, but also informs your preaching ministry.
3. Develop a sermon that is faithful to the biblical text and deliver it effectively.
 - a. Study a passage and identify its main idea and logical flow.
 - b. Develop the homiletical idea of the sermon.
 - c. Develop an outline of the sermon.
 - d. Develop effective introductions, conclusions, supporting material and transitions.
 - e. Employ delivery techniques that bring energy, focus and interest to the idea being presented.
4. Articulate and apply key principles of oral clarity.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2nd ed. Baker Academic, 2001.

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Sunukjian, Donald. *Invitation to Biblical Preaching: Proclaiming Truth with Clarity and Relevance*. Kregel, 2007.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Baker, 1994.

Duduit, Michael (ed.). *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Broadman, 1992.

Litfin, Duane. *Public Speaking; A Handbook for Christians*. 2nd ed. Baker, 1992.

Robinson, Haddon and Craig Brian Larson (eds.). *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Zondervan, 2005.

An excellent online resource is <http://preachingtoday.com>. I would recommend a membership to this resource to anyone who preaches regularly.

The Library holdings for Homiletics and Communications are:

- Preaching: BV 4207 – 4235
- Actual Sermons: BV 4241 – 4316
- Communications: BV 4319

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Biblical Reflection on Commitments that Guide Preaching (15%)

Read Chapters 1-5 of Stott's *Between Two Worlds*, chapter 1 of Robinson's *Biblical Preaching* and chapter 1 of Sunukjian's *Invitation to Biblical Preaching*. Write a paper (no longer than 6 pages) describing three to five commitments that will guide your preaching ministry. Each commitment should be supported biblically. The paper should demonstrate interaction with the material in the assigned reading. **Due: October 10**

Anticipated time required: 8-12 hours

2. Reflection on the Sermons of Others (10%)

Choose two sermons from the list that will be made available to you. Listen to these sermons and answer the following questions.

- What do you think was the main idea of this sermon? How was this idea developed?
- Did this sermon challenge or encourage you in your Christian walk?
- Do you think this sermon was effective? If so, what made it effective? If not, why not? What did you learn from this sermon about effective communication (both content and delivery) of biblical truth?
- What contributed to the clarity or lack of clarity in the sermon?
- Comment on any illustrations, or any aspects of the introduction and conclusion that stood out to you in any way. What did you like or dislike about them?

Due: October 31

Anticipated time required: 4-5 hours

3. Practice and Preparation Exercises (20%)

In preparation for the sermon you will be preaching, you will be given opportunity to “practice” and prepare for your sermon by presenting the following in class:

- Illustrating a biblical truth (5%)
- Identifying the exegetical and homiletical idea of a biblical passage (5%)
- Creating an outline for a biblical sermon (5%)
- Designing an introduction for a biblical sermon (5%)

Anticipated time required: 1-3 hours per exercise

4. Preparing and Delivering a Biblical Sermon (25%)

Prepare a sermon (15-20 minutes) based on a biblical passage. You will be asked to choose from a list of passages handed out on the first day of class. This sermon should reflect the principles presented throughout the class. The passage on which you are to preach will be approved on the third week of class. The date on which you are to preach will be assigned on November 14. A sermon manuscript is to be submitted on the day you preach your sermon. You will be expected to preach from no more than one page (may use both sides) of notes.

- Sermon Manuscript (15%)
- Delivery of Sermon (10%)

Anticipated time required to write manuscript: 8-12 hours

5. Evaluation of the Sermons Presented by Your Peers (10%)

You are expected to be present when your peers are scheduled to preach and you will be asked to fill out an evaluation and participate in a constructive evaluative discussion after each is preached. Absence without cause at a class where your peers are preaching will result in a deduction of 5%.

6. Exam – Prepare a Sermon and then Preach it in Class (20%)

Prepare a sermon on a passage which you choose. You will be asked to submit a manuscript of this sermon along with...

- The subject of the text.
- The complement of the text.
- The exegetical idea.
- The homiletical idea.
- The purpose of your sermon.
- The homiletical outline of your sermon.

Due: December 5 or 12 (date determined by November 28)

PENALTIES:

It is very true that Sundays come with weekly regularity and you can't get an extension on a sermon that needs to be preached. For that reason, practice exercises and the sermon itself will not be granted extensions except in cases where circumstances present a legitimate conflict. In these cases, the Instructor must be notified one week prior to class and must find the request for extension compelling and valid. Authentic last-minute emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Written assignments are expected to be submitted on the date they are due and will be subject to a 10% reduction in grade for each week they are late to a maximum of two weeks, after which they will not be accepted.

EVALUATIONS:

Biblical Reflection on Preaching Commitments	15%
Reflection on Sermons of Others	10%
Practice and Preparation Exercises	20%
Preparing and Delivering a Biblical Sermon	25%
Evaluation of Sermons Presented by Peers	10%
Exam (Sermon Developed and Preached in Class)	20%

COURSE OUTLINE:

(This outline is subject to modification)

September 5 Introduction to the Course
The Case for Expository Preaching
Illustrations

You will be asked to prepare an illustration of a biblical concept for the next class. To solidify concepts from this class, read Robinson, 17-32; 151-162 and Sunukjian, 9-15; 256-267.

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 33-50. We will do the exercises on pages 47-50 in class, so you may want to review these. I encourage you not to check the answers at the end of the book.

September 12 Illustration Practice
Understanding Ideas

During the week ahead, look through the list of passages from which you will be asked to preach. In next week's class, you will be asked to provide the passage you have chosen. No more than two students will be allowed to preach on any one passage.

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 51-72; 103-106 and Sunukjian, 19-26.

September 19 From Text to Sermon Idea

- Choosing and Studying a Passage of Scripture
- Exegetical and Homiletical Ideas

For the next class, you will be asked to present your preliminary thoughts on the exegetical idea of your passage and the homiletical idea of your sermon.

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 73-113.

September 26 Discussion of the Homiletical Idea of Your Text
Determining the Sermon's Purpose
Developing the Idea of a Sermon

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 115-137.

October 3 No Class (Modular Week)

October 10 Forms Sermons Take
Sermon Outlines
Transitions

For the next class, you will be asked to present your preliminary sermon outline.

October 17 Share the Outline of Your Sermon in Class
Basic Considerations for Preaching Various Literary Genres

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 139-182.

October 24 Supporting Material
Introductions and Conclusions

For next week's class, you will be asked to present an introduction to a sermon that will be assigned in class.

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 183-224 and Sunukjian, 268-303.

October 31 Share a Sermon Introduction in Class
Principles of Oral Clarity
Sermon Delivery

November 7 No Class (Modular Week)

November 14 Sermons preached in class

November 21 Sermons preached in class

November 28 Sermons preached in class

December 5 Final Exam – Sermons preached in class

December 12 Final Exam – Sermons preached in class

PW 431 PREACHING TEXTS (These are subject to change.)

1 Samuel 17

Psalms 131

Psalms 127

Daniel 1

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 8:4-18

Luke 10:38-42

Romans 12:1-2

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 Peter 5:1-4

PW431 Sermons for Evaluation (These are subject to change.)

These sermons are available on Preaching Today.com. Preaching Today has graciously made available a trial membership to preaching students in the past and I hope to secure this again for you prior to the semester. You can access the following sermons by logging on to preachingtoday.com.. You can use the search engine provided to search the following sermons by title or by speaker. While the assignment requires that you listen to and evaluate two of the following sermons, I hope that you enjoy many of the other sermons provided in this helpful resource.

Haddon Robinson, *Don't Doubt God's Goodness*, Genesis 3:1-6

Haddon Robinson, *A Good Lesson from a Bad Example*, Luke 12:16-34

Haddon Robinson, *The Disciple's Prayer*, Luke 11-1-4

Donald Sunikjian, *The Shortest Distance Between Two Points is a Zigzag*, Exodus 13:17-22

Joseph Stowell, *Trusting God in Times of Crisis*, Psalm 46

Joseph Stowell, *When You've Been Good and Life Goes Bad*, Rev. 2:8-10

John Ortberg, *Waiting on God*, Romans 8:23-25

Margureite Shuster, *Caution!*, 2 Samuel 6:1-15

Jill Briscoe, *Loving God With All Your Heart*, Luke 10:25-37

Paul Borden, *The Frustration of Doing Good*, Romans 7:7-25

Bryan Chapell, *The Great Escape*, I Corinthians 10:13

Bryan Chapell, *Thanksgiving and Faith*, Luke 17:1-19

Duane Litfin, *Serving a Glorified Christ*, Luke 17:15

Francis Chan, *Living With Jesus*, Philippians 3:1-11

Skye Jethani, *Three Ways to Worship*, 2 Samuel 6:1-15

Andy Stanley, *Paying Your Dues*, Romans 13:1-7