



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

## **PW 431 Introduction to Preaching**

Fall Semester, 2018

**INSTRUCTOR:** Lyle Buyer  
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**COURSE WEIGHT:** 3 credits [90 hours of coursework outside of class time]

**PRE-REQUISITE:** BI 412 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **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.

### **TARGET STATEMENTS:**

A. Knowledge—Students will

- Read the course texts and describe 3 to 5 commitments that govern your preaching ministry.
- Provide biblical support for the 3 to 5 commitments that they choose.
- In preparing a sermon, articulate and apply key principles of oral clarity.

B. Character—Students will

- Include at least one preaching commitment that touches on developing a personal spiritual foundation.
- Listen to sermons in a way that enhances spiritual growth and informs one's own preaching.
- Attend classes and evaluate classmates' sermons.

C. Ability—Students will

- Develop a sermon that is faithful to the biblical text and deliver it effectively.
- Preach effectively.
- Provide written evidence of following the procedure outlined below:
  - a. Study a passage and identify its main idea and logical flow.
  - b. Develop a homiletic idea of the sermon.
  - c. Develop a clear and clarifying outline of the sermon.
  - d. Write effective introductions, conclusions
  - e. Provide supporting material and transitions within the sermon.
  - f. Apply principles of oral clarity.
  - g. Employ delivery techniques that bring energy, focus and interest to the idea being presented..

**TEXTBOOK(S):**

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Baker Academic, 2014.

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

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

The student should also have a copy of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. This is available online on the seminary website.

**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*. You may also want to scan through some of the articles in [preachingtoday.com](http://preachingtoday.com). Write a paper (no longer than 5 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 11**  
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: November 1**

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

**Due dates included in course outline.**

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

Prepare a sermon (20-30 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 at least two weeks before you have to preach. 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.

- Reworked Foundational Material (5%)
- Sermon Manuscript (10%)
- Delivery of Sermon (10%)

Anticipated time required to write manuscript: 10-15 hours

**Due: Foundational material and manuscript due on date you are scheduled to preach, which will be either November 8, 15, or 22. (Date Determined on November 1)**

#### **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 2%.

#### **6. Final 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 following foundational material...

- The subject of the text.
- The complement of the text.
- The exegetical idea.
- The homiletical idea.
- The fallen condition focus addressed by the sermon.
- The purpose of your sermon.
- The homiletical outline of your sermon.

**Due: Foundational Material and Manuscript due on the date you are scheduled to preach which will be either November 29, December 6 or 13. (date determined on November 22)**

#### **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 at least one day prior to class and must find the request for extension valid. Failure to do so will result in no mark for that assignment. 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%

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle platform has been migrated to our sister seminary in South Dakota, Sioux Falls Seminary (SFS). Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access:

<https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is your first initial of your first name and your last name all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (with no uppercase and no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number. For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417.

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email [teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca)

### 2. COURSE WRITING

#### *Formatting*

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

#### *Research Language.*

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

#### *Plagiarism.*

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

**\*\* Note that sermon manuscripts are different than research papers and will follow a more informal style designed for oral clarity. Differences in formatting, research language and citing of sources for sermon manuscripts will be discussed in class.**

### *3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY*

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a “W” will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an “F” will be recorded on the student’s transcript.

#### *Permission for Use of Student Assignments*

As part of Taylor Seminary’s accreditation process, the faculty is required annually to review anonymized examples of student assignments from selected core courses in our Masters degrees. If you do not wish your Sermon manuscript to be anonymized and then included in the random sample from which all Sermon manuscripts will be chosen for review, please request an abstention from the course instructor.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

#### **September 6** 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, 1-14; 107-117 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 17-32; 151-162) and Sunukjian, 9-15; 256-267.

In preparation for next week’s class, read Robinson, 15-26 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 33-50). We will do the exercises on pages 185-187 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 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 13** 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 per passage will be allowed.

In preparation for next week’s class, read Robinson, 27-45; 69-71 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 51-72; 103-106) and Sunukjian, 19-26.

#### **September 22** 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 subject, complement, and exegetical idea of your passage and the homiletical idea of your sermon.

In preparation for the next class, read Robinson, 47-76 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 73-113).

#### **September 27** No Class

#### **October 4** Discussion of the Foundational Material of Your Text Determining the Sermon’s Purpose Developing the Idea of a Sermon

In preparation for next week’s class, read Robinson, 77-96 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 115-137)

**October 11** Forms Sermons Take  
Sermon Outlines  
Transitions

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

**October 18** No Class (Modular Week)

**October 25** Share the Outline of Your Sermon in Class  
Basic Considerations for Preaching Various Literary Genres

In preparation for next week's class, read Robinson, 97-133 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 139-182).

**November 1** 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, 135-169(2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 183-224) and Sunukjian, 268-303.

**November 8** Share a Sermon Introduction in Class  
Sermon Delivery  
Principles of Oral Clarity

**November 15** Sermons preached in class

**November 22** Sermons preached in class

**November 29** Sermons preached in class

**December 7** Final Exam Sermons preached in class

**December 14** Final Exam Sermons preached in class

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**

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

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

Keller, Timothy. *Preaching; Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*. Viking, 2015.

Litfin, Duane. *Public Speaking; A Handbook for Christians*. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **APPENDICES:**

### **1. PW 431 PREACHING TEXTS**

1 Samuel 17  
Psalm 131  
Psalm 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

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

These sermons are available on Preaching Today.com. I hope to have a free trial subscription available to you by mid-September. Use the search engine provided to locate 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

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

Tim Keller, *The Girl Nobody Wanted*, Genesis 29:15-35

Tim Keller, *Getting Out*, Exodus 14

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

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

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

Bryan Chapell, *Perfectly Provided For*, John 2:1-11

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

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

Andy Stanley, *Let the Blames Begin*, Genesis 1:27-29; 3:1-13