



Taylor Seminary

PW 538 - The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching

January Intersession (Draft Syllabus)

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

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lyle Buyer.
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SCHEDULE: January 14-18, 2019 (8:30-4:30)

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to address the foundational and practical issues of biblical preaching as these relate to pastoral ministry. Special attention will be given to the skills, the art, and Spirit-led aspects of sermon delivery in the context of worship services and special occasions such as weddings, funerals and Christian holidays. Significant emphasis will be given to in-class preaching and out-of-class preaching. The course will be of particular benefit to those who are currently, or foresee themselves, in the primary role of preaching as part of pastoral ministry (Prerequisite: PW 431).

TARGET STATEMENTS:

- A. Knowledge – Students will:
- Read the textbook containing preaching articles and articulate insights from five of these articles as they apply to their own preaching ministry.
 - Read the textbook by Timothy Keller and articulate insights gleaned regarding preaching that points to Christ and preaching that speaks effectively to current culture.
 - Deepen their understanding of developing and delivering a biblical sermon, with special emphasis given to the dynamics involved in wedding sermons, funeral/memorial sermons, Christian holiday sermons and evangelistic sermons.
 - Reflect on the role of a preaching ministry within the overall ministry of the church.
- B. Character – Students will:
- Participate in a panel discussion addressing the need to tend the heart of the preacher.
 - Determine what practices they will engage to tend their own heart.
 - Attend classes and evaluate classmates' sermons.
- C. Ability – Students will:
- Prepare and deliver a devotional in class.
 - Develop a sermon series consisting of at least four sermons.
 - Provide written evidence of preparing a two sermons (one of which will be a wedding, funeral, holiday or evangelistic sermon) following the procedure outlined below:
 - a. Study a passage and identify the logical flow and main idea.

- b. Develop a homiletical idea for the sermon.
- c. Develop a clear and clarifying outline of the sermon.
- d. Provide supporting material that effectively communicates the idea(s) presented.
- e. Write an effective introduction and conclusion.
- f. Employ delivery techniques that bring energy, focus and interest to the idea(s) being presented.

TEXTBOOK(S):

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

Robinson, Haddon and Larson, Craig Brian Larson (eds.). *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators*. Zondervan: 2005.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Devotional Presented in Class (10%) **Due: January 15th-17th**

In pastoral ministry, it is quite common to be asked to “give a devotional.” On Monday, **January 14th**, we will review some of the issues involved in preparing a devotional. We will also pick a slot for you to present a devotional in class. This devotional should be no longer than five minutes.

Anticipated time required: 1-2 hours

2. “Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching” Assignment (15%) **Due: February 1st**

This book is a collection of many excellent articles on a wide array of issues related to preaching. I would like you to scan all the articles and at least get a sense of the overall essence of each. Having done that, take the time to read carefully at least two articles from each of the eleven “parts” of the book (22 articles in all). On one page of paper, list the articles you read (you only need to give the name of the article, not all the bibliographic material). From this list, choose the 5 articles you found to be most helpful. Write a 4-5 page reflection paper describing what you found to be helpful from each of these articles and how you plan to apply the insights you gained to your future preaching ministry.

Anticipate time: 8-12 hours

3. Book Review of Timothy Keller, *Preaching* (10%) **Due: February 22nd**

Read Timothy Keller’s book, *Preaching; Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* and write a 4-6 page reflection paper that addresses the following questions.

- What does Keller mean by preaching Christ and the “Gospel” every time you preach? How does he propose we do this and remain faithful to the message of the text, especially Old Testament texts? Offer some personal interaction with this emphasis. (Do you agree or disagree? How will this impact your own preaching ministry?)
- What insights does Keller give regarding how we can preach Christ effectively to our culture? How will this impact your own preaching ministry?

- What did you find most helpful from Keller’s book? What are the key take-away principles you hope to apply in your future preaching ministry?

Anticipated time required: 7-10 hours

4. Developing a Sermon Series (10%)

Due: March 8th

You will be expected to provide a synopsis of a sermon series of at least four sermons and provide the foundational material (topic, subject, complement, homiletical idea, sermon purpose, broad outline, preliminary fallen condition focus and possible title) for each of these sermons. I will provide a more concrete example in class of how I want you to complete this assignment.

Anticipated time required: 7-8 hours

5. Preparing and Delivering 2 Biblical Sermons (50%)

First Sermon Due: January 17th or 18th

*** Foundational Material Due January 16th**

Second Sermon Due: March 29th

Prepare two sermons based on biblical passages. These sermons should reflect the principles presented throughout the class building on the content of PW431, “Introduction to Preaching.” The first sermon will be presented in class on **January 17th or 18th** (the foundational material for this sermon will be presented in class on **January 16th**). The video recording of the second sermon will be submitted to the Instructor by **March 29th**. One of these sermons will be a funeral, wedding, evangelistic or holiday message. The other can be a typical sermon that would be preached in whatever context you decide. You can choose the texts on which you base your sermons. With the first sermon, you will be asked to present your foundational preparation for the sermon (subject, complement, exegetical idea, homiletical idea, fallen condition focus, sermon purpose, preaching outline) in class. A sermon manuscript is to be submitted on the day you preach your sermon. (Given the realities of a week-long class, I recognize this may not be possible and will accept the first manuscript to **January 25th**.) You will be expected to preach from no more than one page of notes (you may use both sides). Each sermon will be marked as follows:

- Foundational Preparation (5%)
- Sermon Manuscript (10%)
- Delivery of Sermon (10%)

Anticipated time required per sermon: 15-18 hours

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

You are expected to be present when your peers present foundation material and when they are scheduled to preach. You will be asked to fill out an evaluation and participate in a constructive evaluative discussion after each sermon is preached. An unexcused absence from a day of sermons preached will result in a 2% reduction in your grade per half-day.

EVALUATION:

Class Devotional	10%
“Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching” Assignment	15%
Book Review on Second Text	10%
Development of Sermon Series	10%
Foundational Preparation for Sermons	10% (2X5%)
Preparing and Delivering 2 Biblical Sermon	40% (2X20%)
Participation in Sermon Evaluation of Peers	5%

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, students are strongly encouraged to submit assignments on time and extensions will only be granted when the Instructor is notified one week in advance with a valid reason. Authentic last-minute emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. There will be no extension granted on the material presented in class. Written assignments are expected to be submitted by midnight on the date they are due and will be subject to a 10% reduction in grade for each two weekdays they are late to a maximum of ten days, after which they will not be accepted.

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

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:

(This outline is subject to modification)

January 14 Introductions to the Course (Review Syllabus)
(Morning) Sermon Development...One Question at a Time

January 14 Preparing a Devotional
(Afternoon) Signing up for a Devotional Slot
 Signing up for a Sermon Slot
 Memorial/Funeral Sermons and Services

January 15 Devotional -
(Morning) Preparing a Wedding Message
 Wedding Ceremonies and Rehearsals
 Devotional –
 Holiday Messages

January 15 Devotional –
(Afternoon) Panel Presentation/Discussion – “Tending to the Heart of the Preacher”
 Devotional –
 Evangelistic Messages

In preparation for tomorrow's classes, complete the foundational material for the message you will preach. I will ask you to complete:

Text:

Topic:

Subject:

Complement:

Exegetical Idea:

Homiletical Idea:

Sermon Purpose:

Outline of Major Ideas:

- January 16 (Morning) Devotional - Review Foundational Sermon Material
Devotional – Review Foundational Sermon Material
- January 16 (Afternoon) Devotional - Keller on “The Narratives of our Culture”
Devotional – Preparing a Sermon Series
- January 17 (Morning) Devotional – Purpose of a Preaching Ministry/Supporting a Preaching Ministry
Devotional – Lessons from Public Speaking
- January 17 (Afternoon) Sermons preached in class
- January 18 (Morning) Sermons preached in class
- January 18 (Afternoon) Sermons preached in class

RECOMMENDED READING

Fee, Gordon and Stuart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, 3rd ed.*, Zondervan: 2003.

Buechner, Frederick, *Telling the Truth; The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale.* HarperOne: 1977.

Kushner, Malcolm. *Public Speaking for Dummies: 2nd Edition.* Wiley, 2004

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