



Grace Communion Seminary

CM511 Homiletics

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Dan Rogers, PhD

To send a message to the instructor, see Appendix B, which starts on page 11.

Course description

This course surveys various methods of analyzing the biblical text in order to develop an expository sermon to be given to a congregation. This course also surveys various approaches to the sermon and analyzes which approaches work best in various contexts. This course also involves peer and instructor evaluation of sermon outlines prepared by the student and the critique by an ecclesiastical supervisor and by the instructor of a sermon given by the student to a congregation.
Prerequisite: either NT501 or BI501.

Required textbooks

Chapel, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005. ISBN: 0-8020-2798-5. 400 pages. Approx. \$22.

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985. ISBN: 978-0-687-65994-4. 224 pages. Approx. \$18.

Kaiser, Jr., Walter C. *Toward An Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981. ISBN: 0-8010-2197-9. 268 pages. Approx. \$28.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8010-4912-5. 244 pages. Approx. \$16.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these

books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Recommended textbooks

Fasol, Al. *A Complete Guide to Sermon Delivery*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.

Koessler, John, ed. *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008.

Student learning outcomes

Through this course, students will...

1. Exegete selected pericopes according to the historical and cultural settings of the texts and to analyze and describe how the pericopes relate to God, Jesus Christ, and salvation and their application for faithful living today.
2. Utilize their exegeted pericopes to produce sermon outlines and sermons to be used in a congregation for the biblical education and spiritual edification of the church attendees.

Requirements and assignments

1. **View:** the 6 video lecture sessions (approximately 50 minutes each) and follow along with the provided PowerPoint (NOTE: the content is not identical; both viewing the videos and reading the PowerPoint are necessary). Each video segment will be available each Monday for the first 6 weeks. See the *Academic Catalog*, section VI, for study suggestions. You should look up any scripture references in the PowerPoint. There are also a couple of sample sermons on video.
2. **Participate.** Part of the learning in this class occurs through discussion and interaction among the students. This interaction will occur through comments posted on the website discussion forum.
3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 929 pages of required reading, or about 100 pages each week. The more you can read before classes begin, the further along you will be in this class.
4. **First Assignment:** Submit a brief biography focusing on your preaching

experience and include a self-analysis of your strengths and weaknesses in preaching. This assignment is due by the second Monday of classes.

5. **Write Papers.** This counts for 20 % of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 22 hours to work on these papers. The assignments consist of writing a book review of each of the required textbooks. The first review is due by the end of the 6th week, the second review is due by the end of the 7th week, the third review is due by the end of the 9th week, and the fourth review is due by the end of the 10th week.

The books should be reviewed in the following order:

- a. *Toward An Exegetical Theology*, Kaiser. Read pages 185-196, 197-210, and 211-234. Give an overview of each section you read and select one chapter in Part 3 and focus on it, explaining what you learned from it that will aid you in preaching. (2–6 pages)
 - b. *Biblical Preaching*, Robinson. Read the entire book. Write at least 2 pages on the 1–3 points you felt were the most important that you learned from the book. Also include at least 1 page on the value of inductive vs. deductive sermons.
 - c. *Preaching*, Craddock. Read pages 13–222. Write 2–4 pages on the most significant points you learned from this book that will aid you in preaching.
 - d. *Christ-centered Preaching*, Chapell. Read the entire book. Write 2–4 pages on the most significant points you learned from this book that will aid you in preaching.
6. **Submit:** a 1 page analysis/observations about the techniques/ methodology used in two video sermons. The first is due by the end of week 8 and the second by the end of week 9.
 7. **Submit:** a sermon (#1) (written, audio, or video) along with a self-analysis of the sermon. This is due by the end of week 8.
 8. **Submit:** an audio (or video if possible) sermon (#2) to your ecclesiastical supervisor for their critique (provided to both student and class instructor). This assignment may of course be done earlier, but is due by the end of week

11; the supervisor's critique should be emailed to the instructor within one week.

Submit: a sermon (#3) via video (if video is not possible, contact instructor to discuss options). This is to be a sermon given before a congregation as a part of its worship service (only the sermon need be recorded). The video is to be submitted to the instructor by the Monday of week 13, along with the student's notes, outline, or whatever tools and helps were used in the delivery of the sermon. If you are not the pastor, you will need to schedule this with your senior pastor as soon as the course begins!

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

| Assignment | Hours * | Percentage of grade |
|--|------------|------------------------|
| Reading the syllabus, PowerPoint and viewing the video lectures. | 8 | |
| Reading the required textbooks | 50 | |
| Reading discussions and making responses | 3 | |
| Writing the book reviews | 22 | 20 |
| Writing the analysis of online video sermons | 2 | 5 |
| Preparing sermon #1 | 12 | 10 |
| Preparing and delivering sermon #2 | 20 | 20 |
| Preparing and delivering sermon #3 | 30 | 45 |
| | | |
| Total – about 12 hours each week | 147 | 100 |

* This is an estimate for the “average” student. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa. Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time.

Weekly topics and assignments

| Week | Topic | Assignments to be done during the week |
|--------|-----------|--|
| Week 1 | Lecture 1 | Write brief autobiography |

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| | Who do we preach? Why do we preach? The indicatives before the imperatives. The gift of preaching. Preaching in the context of the worship service experience. | focusing on your preaching experience and an analysis of your preaching strengths and weaknesses. Due on Monday, Sept. 11. |
| Week 2 | Lecture 2 The expository sermon and how to prepare it. Isolating the pericope and textual criticism. | Autobiography due on Monday, Sept. 11 – to be posted on the class website so other students can read, and comment during week 3. |
| Week 3 | Lecture 3 The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the pericope's context. | Work on book reviews, post online comments about how your preaching experience compares with that of other students. |
| Week 4 | Lecture 4 The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the pericope's genre, position in the book, and immediate context. Linguistic analysis noting the author's particular use of tropes such as metaphors, irony, hyperbole, litotes, etc. | Work on book review, post online comments about how you view the sermon as fitting into the context of the weekly worship service. This is to be posted so other students can read it, and make comments in week 6. |
| Week 5 | Lecture 5 The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the author's use of cultural terms, cosmological imagery, and key theological terms. Analyzing the theology of the author in | Work on book reviews; post online comments about what you view as the importance of determining a pericope's context. This is also to be posted so other students can read it, and make comments in |

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| | the pericope. Analyzing how to preach the pericope (what is the “big idea” of your homily going to be and how are you going to “prove” it?). | week 6. |
| Week 6 | Lecture 6 Observing a group of pastors and church leaders interactively putting the first five lectures into practice as they analyze Matthew 14: 22-33. | Work on book reviews and post online comments and observations about your reaction to the pastors’ group discussion and analysis of a pericope. First book review (Kaiser) is due by the end of Sunday, Oct. 15. |
| Week 7 | Watch online sermon video from Luke 9:10-17, “It’s Not What You Have, It’s Who Has You.” | Second book review (Robinson) due by the end of Sunday, Oct. 22. Prepare 1-page paper with analysis and observations about the techniques/ methods used in the online sermon video from Luke 9 – due by the end of Sunday, Oct. 22). Post online comments interacting with other students’ book reviews of Kaiser – focus on shared observations |
| Week 8 | Watch online sermon video from Matthew 14: 22-32, “Jesus Walks on the Water.” | Sermon #1 due at the end of the week – by the end of Sunday, Oct. 29. |

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|---------|--|--|
| | | <p>Prepare 1-page paper with analysis and observation about the techniques/ methods used in the online sermon video from Matthew 14 – due by the end of Sunday, Nov. 5.</p> <p>Post online comments interacting with other students’ comments on book review (Robinson) – focus on shared observations</p> |
| Week 9 | | <p>Third book review (Craddock) due by the end of Sunday, Oct. 29.</p> |
| Week 10 | | <p>Fourth book review (Chapell) due by the end of Sunday, Nov. 12.</p> <p>Post online comments interacting with other students’ comments on book review (Craddock) – focus on shared observations</p> |
| Week 11 | | <p>Sermon #2 due.</p> <p>Post online comments interacting with other students’ comments on book review (Chapell) – focus on shared observations.</p> |
| Week 12 | <p>Sermon #3 (on video) must be available to the instructor by the end of Sunday, December 3, 2017.</p> | |

