



**GRACE COMMUNION
SEMINARY**

CM511 Homiletics

Full Syllabus

Instructor: Dan Rogers, PhD

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

GCS mission statement

“Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through quality graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Incarnational Trinitarian faith.

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 involves instructor evaluation of video sermons prepared and submitted by the student to the instructor, and the critique by an ecclesiastical supervisor and by the instructor of a sermon (submitted on video) given by the student to a congregation/audience.

Prerequisite: BI501

Prerequisite: technology required to make a video recording and to upload it to YouTube.

Required textbooks

Chapel, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005. ISBN: 0-80202798-5. 400 pages. Approximate cost: \$16.

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

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. Approximate cost: \$20.

Vines, Jerry, and Adam B. Dooley. *Passion in the Pulpit: How to Exegete the Emotion of Scripture*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8024-1838-8. 206 pages. Approximate cost: \$25.

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

The learning outcomes for this course support several of the GCS student learning outcomes. In this course students will learn to explain the revelation of the Bible in its historical and cultural setting as it relates to God, Jesus Christ, and salvation, and its application for faithful living today (GCS SLO #1). Students also will learn how to integrate biblical exegesis with sound theological exposition that informs personal growth and that directs effective ministry in Jesus Christ (GCS SLO #5).

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.

Also see Appendix C.

Requirements and assignments

1. **View:** the six 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 six 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 Kaiser PDF and the textbooks.** They total about 1,342 pages of required reading, or about 150 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 Sunday of the first week of classes. (Sept. 15, 2019)
5. **Write 5 Book Reviews.** This counts for 25 % (5 points for each paper) of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 24 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 5th week,

the second review is due by the end of the 6th week, the third review is due by the end of the 7th week, the fourth review is due by the end of the 8th week and the fifth review is due by the end of the 9th week.

The PDF and text books should be reviewed in the following order:

- a. The PDF of *Toward an Exegetical Theology*, Kaiser. Read pages 185-196, 197-210, and 211-234. Give an overview of each section read. Explain what you learned from your reading 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. Additionally, write at least 1 page on the value of both inductive and 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.
- e. *Passion in the Pulpit*, Vines & Dooley. Read the entire book. Write 2-4 pages on the most significant points you learned from this book that will aid you in preaching.

For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.

6. **Submit:** a 1 page analysis/observations about the techniques/ methodology used in each of two posted video sermons. The first is due by the end (Sunday) of week 7 and the second by the end (Sunday) of week 8.
7. **Submit:** a sermon (#1) via video – ideally all sermon videos will be uploaded to YouTube with link sent to instructor; DVD or flash drive is acceptable if materials arrive by due date) to the instructor. This is due by

the end (Sunday) of week 10. For this sermon **select a pericope from the Old Testament.**

8. **Submit:** a sermon (#2) via video - given to your ecclesiastical supervisor (or given live in the supervisor’s presence) for their critique and submitted via video to the class instructor for his critique and grading. This assignment may be done earlier, but is due by (Sunday) the end of week 11; the supervisor’s critique should be emailed to the instructor no later than the (Sunday) end of week 11. Please make sure your supervisor is aware of this time frame and is able to comply with it. For this sermon **select a pericope from the Gospels.**

9. **Submit:** a sermon (#3) via video. 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 (Sunday) end of week 12, 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 pastor as soon as the course begins! For this sermon **select a pericope from the Epistles of Paul.**

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	52	
Reading discussions and making responses	1	5
Writing the book reviews	24	25
Writing the analysis of online video sermons	2	10
Preparing sermon #1	10	10
Preparing and delivering sermon #2	20	20
Preparing and delivering sermon #3	30	30
Total – about 12 ½ 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 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) 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.	Write brief autobiography focusing on your preaching experience and an analysis of your preaching strengths and weaknesses. Due by Sunday, the end of week 1. (Sept. 15, 2019) Autobiography to be posted on the class website (forum) so other students can read, compare, and comment during week 2.
Week 2	Lecture 2 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) The expository sermon and how to prepare it. Isolating the pericope and textual criticism.	Work on book reviews, comment in the “forum” section about your preaching experience and how it compares with that of other students.
Week 3	Lecture 3 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the pericope’s context.	Work on book reviews.

Week 4	Lecture 4 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) 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 reviews, during week 4 post online comments about how you view the sermon as fitting into the context of the weekly worship service. This is to be posted in the "forum" section of the website so other students can read it, and make comments during week 4.
Week 5	Lecture 5 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) 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 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?).	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 during week 5. First book review (PDF from Kaiser's book) is due by Sunday, the end of week 5. (Oct. 13, 2019)
Week 6	Lecture 6 (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.) Observing the discussion of 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. Post online comments and observations about your reaction to the pastors' group discussion and analysis of a pericope in lecture 6. Second book review (Robinson) is due by the end of Sunday, week 6. (Oct. 20, 2019).

<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Watch online sermon video from Luke 9:10-17, “It’s Not What You Have, It’s Who Has You.” 16 minutes. (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.)</p>	<p>Third book review (Craddock) due by the end (Sunday) of week 7. (Oct. 27, 2019)</p> <p>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, week 7. (Oct 27, 2019).</p>
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Watch online sermon video from Matthew 14:22-32, “Jesus Walks on the Water.” 25 minutes. (YouTube link provided in full syllabus.)</p>	<p>Fourth book review (Chapell) due by the end (Sunday) of week 8. (Nov. 3, 2019)</p> <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, week 8. (Nov. 3, 2019)</p>
<p>Week 9</p>		<p>Fifth book review (Vines)) due by (Sunday) the end of week 9. (Nov. 10, 2019).</p>

Week 10		Sermon #1 (OT) on video - due by the (Sunday) end of week 10. (Nov. 17, 2019)
Week 11		Sermon #2 (Gospels) on video due by the (Sunday) end of week 11. (Nov. 24, 2019)
Week 12		Sermon #3 (Epistles of Paul on video must be available to the instructor no later than by the end of Sunday, week 12. (December 1, 2019)