



Grace Communion Seminary

CM511 Homiletics (Intensive)

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Dan Rogers, PhD

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 also involves peer and instructor evaluation of sermons 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.

Special note: Students are required to participate in the intensive portion of this course, which will be held during the 7th week of the semester, June 25-28, at Christ Fellowship Church in Cincinnati, OH. GCS does not cover expenses related to travel, lodging or meals. Students need to arrange their own travel, lodging and meal arrangements, and cover those expenses. As is usual with GCS courses, if not enough students enroll, the class will be cancelled. Because all the work must be done within seven weeks, the amount of work per week will be more than the average GCS course.

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.

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. Approximate cost: \$26.

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.

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

For help with voice, gestures, stage presence:

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

Schmit and Childers ed. *Performance in Preaching: Bringing the Sermon to Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

For help with preparing expository sermons:

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

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 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 4 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 and during the intensive group gathering.

3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 929 pages of required reading. *The more you can read before classes begin, the further along you will be in this class.*
4. **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 Monday of week 3. The second review is **due** by the end of the Monday of week 4. The third review is due by the end of the Monday of week 5. The fourth review is due by the end of the Monday of week 6.

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. (minimum 3 pages total)
- 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.

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>.

5. **Submit:** a 1 page analysis/observations about the techniques/ methodology used in two video sermons. The first is due by the end of the Monday of week 4 and the second by the end of the Monday of week 5.

6. **Preach 3 Sermons:** During a five day intensive the student will present 3 sermons (min. 20 – max. 40 minutes in length) before an audience of peers, ecclesiastical supervisors, and the course instructor. Sermon #1 is to be taken from a pericope in the Gospels. Sermon #2 is to be taken from a pericope in the Old Testament. Sermon #3 is to be taken from a pericope in the Epistles.

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 and delivering sermon #1	15	10
Preparing and delivering sermon #2	20	20
Preparing and delivering sermon #3	30	45
Total	150	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 https://youtu.be/11dApNJI6I 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.	
	Lecture 2 http://youtu.be/V_Z8CQk2by0 The expository sermon and how to prepare it. Isolating the pericope and textual criticism.	
	Lecture 3 http://youtu.be/kqxa05zrvUo The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the pericope's context.	Work on book reviews.
Week 2	Lecture 4 http://youtu.be/T1PKb5rNjtg 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.

	<p>Lecture 5 http://youtu.be/VkfAhWg3gqo 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?).</p>	<p>First book review (Kaiser) due by Monday of Week 3.</p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Lecture 6 http://youtu.be/JDCgWpQXoKQ 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.</p> <p>Watch online sermon video from Luke 9:10-17, “It’s Not What You Have, It’s Who Has You.” https://www.gci.org/wfos/dr008</p>	<p>Work on book reviews and post online forum comments and observations about your reaction to the pastors’ group discussion and analysis of a pericope in lecture 6.</p> <p>*First book review (Kaiser) is due. Second book review (Robinson) due by the end of the Monday of week 4.</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 the Monday of week 4.</p>

<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Watch online sermon video from Matthew 14: 22-32, “Jesus Walks on the Water.”</p> <p>https://www.gci.org/wfos/dr013</p>	<p>*Second book review (Robinson) is due.</p> <p>*Analysis paper on sermon video-Luke 9 is due.</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 Monday of week 5.</p> <p>Third book review (Craddock) due by Monday of week 5.</p>
<p>Week 5</p>		<p>Third book review (Craddock) due.</p> <p>Analysis paper on sermon video-Matt. 14 is due.</p> <p>Fourth book review (Chapell) due by Monday of week 6.</p>

Week 6		<p>Fourth book review (Chapell) due.</p> <p>Prepare 3 sermons (1 each from Gospel, OT, Epistle of Paul). To be preached during week 7.</p>
Week 7	<p>Intensive in Cincinnati begins at 1 pm on Monday and ends at noon on the following Thursday.</p> <p>Be prepared to deliver 3 sermons (1 each from Gospel, OT, Epistle of Paul).</p>	
Following Week 7	<p>Final Grades will be posted.</p>	