



Grace Communion Seminary

CM511 Homiletics

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 and delivered by the student.

Required textbooks

Chapel, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN: 0801099749. 400 pages. Cost: about \$20. Previous editions may also be used, and cost less.

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985, 2010. ISBN: 0687659949 or 0687336481. 224 pages. Very good used books, about \$11. Any edition is acceptable.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN: 9780801049125. 244 pages. Approximate cost: \$15. Any edition.

Vines, Jerry, and Adam B. Dooley. *Passion in the Pulpit: How to Exegete the Emotion of Scripture*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2018. ISBN: 978-08024-1838-8. 206 pages. Hardcover edition currently in short supply; Kindle version available for \$10.

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. Very good used book, \$11.

Koessler, John, ed. *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008. Very good used book, \$11.

Student learning outcomes

The learning outcomes for this course support 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 (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.

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. This will include commenting on sermons given by other students.
3. **Read the Kaiser PDF and the textbooks.** They total about 1300 pages of required reading. *The more you can read before lectures 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. See schedule below for due dates.

The books should be reviewed in the following order:

- a. *Toward an Exegetical Theology*, Kaiser. (PDF of required chapters will be supplied). 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.
 - 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>.

5. **Submit:** a 1-page analysis/observations about the techniques/ methodology used in two video presentations (links are provided in the weekly schedule). Both analysis papers are due by the end of the Sunday of week 9.
6. **Preach Three Sermons:** Each student will present three sermons (min. 20 – max. 40 minutes in length). These sermons are to be uploaded to YouTube and the link supplied to the instructor no later than the Sunday of the week in which each is due. The sermons may be recorded before a congregation, a small group, or in a private setting. Note: Wherever the sermon is presented, attention should be given to the backdrop or setting behind the speaker, lighting, and sound quality. The sermon should, if the speaker is able, generally be given while standing. 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 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	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 May 11	Lecture 1 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.	Work on book reviews.
Week 2 May 18	Lecture 2 The expository sermon and how to prepare it. Isolating the pericope and textual criticism.	Work on book reviews.

Week 3 May 25	Lecture 3 The expository sermon continued. Analyzing the context of the pericope.	Work on book reviews.
Week 4 June 1	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.	First book review (Kaiser PDF) is due by the end of Sunday, June 7.
Week 5 June 8	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 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?).	Second book review (Robinson) due by the end of Sunday June 14.
Week 6 June 15	Lecture 6 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.	Post online forum comments and observation about your reaction to the pastors' group discussion and analysis of a pericope in lecture 6. Third book review (Craddock) is due by the end of Sunday, June 21.
Week 7 June 22		Fourth book review (Chapell) is due by the end of Sunday, June 28.

Week 8 June 29		Fifth book review (Vines) due by the end of Sunday, July 5.
Week 9	Watch online sermon video from Luke 9:10-17, "It's Not What You Have, It's Who Has You." Watch online sermon video from Matthew 14:22-32, "Jesus Walks on the Water."	Prepare and submit 1 page paper on each video with analysis and observations about the techniques/methods used in the online videos. Due by the end of Sunday, July 12.
Week 10	First sermon: a pericope from the Gospels	YouTube video link must be supplied to the instructor by the end of Sunday, July 19.
Week 11	Second sermon: a pericope from the Old Testament	YouTube video link must be supplied to the instructor by the end of Sunday, July 26.
Week 12	Third sermon: a pericope from the Epistles of Paul	YouTube video link must be supplied to the instructor by the end of Sunday, August 2.
Week 13	All course work must submitted by Monday, August 10.	Final grades will be submitted.