

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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**Doctor of Ministry Elective**

**PTH 981 PREACHING THAT CONNECTS**

**June 13-17, 2005**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course focuses on growing the effectiveness of the experienced preacher. Theology, classical rhetoric, communication theory, and cultural analysis are synthesized to develop both the reflective skills and the personal disciplines that produce continuous self-improvement in the preaching arts.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course should equip and empower the participant to:

1. *Articulate* both the distinctions and the connections between biblical and cultural understandings of preaching.
2. *Assess* the nature, quality, and impact of sermons both before and after delivery through the application of rhetorical analysis to the preaching arts.
3. *Adapt* to a wider range of preaching situations through the application communication theory to the preaching arts.
4. *Assimilate* media-based communication forms into the preaching arts in context-appropriate, message-enhancing, audience-serving ways.
5. *Apply* spiritual disciplines that will contribute to continuous self-improvement in the preaching arts

## COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Mon., June 13</b> [Articulate]	“Can you say, ‘Amen?’” <i>Relating Audience Sovereignty and Scriptural Authority</i>
<b>Tues., June 14</b> [Assess]	“That will preach!” <i>Knowing a Good Sermon Before You Hear It</i>
<b>Wed., June 15</b> [Adapt]	“Can I get a witness?” <i>Discerning Situational Dynamics as Communication Opportunities</i>
<b>Thurs., June 16</b> [Assimilate]	“In my next slide...” <i>Integrating Media as Servant Rather than Master</i>
<b>Fri., June 17</b> [Apply]	“Fire in my bones” <i>Growing the Spiritual Disciplines of Continuous Self-Improvement</i>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. *Pre-Session* (20 total points)

- a. Read: 1500 pages from the Pre-Session Readings list. It is a violation of academic policy to claim credit for books read prior to the course. Substitute books from the Alternative Readings list for those read previously. (10 points)
- b. Report: The Reading Report attached to this syllabus should be turned in on the last day of class with all readings completed.
- c. Write:
  - 1) Self-Assessment: write a 5-page paper using concepts from the course readings to assess your own preaching. You will do an oral presentation of your paper in summary form during one of the class sessions. (5 points)
  - 2) Resource-Building: write a 5-page annotated bibliography of internet resources on the preaching arts. Make the annotations brief so you can fit as many websites into the paper as possible. Include at least five sites featuring online sermons. (5 points)

### 2. *Session* (10 total points)

- a. Attendance: at all class sessions is required to receive credit for the course and is worth 5 points toward the course grade. (5 points)
  - b. Active contribution: to the peer learning environment, including discussion, integration of pre-reading, class exercises, and relationship-building. (5 points)
3. *Post-Session Self-Development Project* (70 points)

Write a 15-20-page paper presenting a plan for continuous self-improvement in the preaching arts. Incorporate course materials as they support the project, in which the participant should:

- 1) Perform significant qualitative and/or quantitative research on how your preaching is experienced by audiences
- 2) Analyze the assets and limitations in your situation, and your strengths and weaknesses as a communicator based on this research
- 3) Present specific steps for capitalizing on your strengths and assets, and overcoming your limitations and weaknesses. (These steps could include elements such as a 3-month preaching plan, team-based research, preparation, and evaluation, video feedback, etc.)
- 4) Identify the resources you will use to implement your plan
- 5) Implement the plan for at least one month, including at least three sermons
- 6) Conduct qualitative and/or quantitative follow-up research to assess the impact of the plan on your preaching, your audience, and your life.
- 7) Present your preliminary evaluation of the plan's impact along with learnings and suggestions for further refinements. (Answer this question: what have you learned from the experience that you would want to pass along to others who are studying preaching?)

This assignment can be customized to suit your particular preaching responsibilities.

**POST-SESSION PROJECT GRADING CRITERIA (70 total points)**

1. *Cogency*: are assertions clear, specific, and adequately supported? (10 points)
2. *Clarity*: is the work well-organized and properly paragraphed? (10 points)
3. *Creativity*: do the major ideas represent original thinking? (10 points)
4. *Depth*: are the ideas substantial, the product of quality reflective thinking? (10 points)

5. *Quality*: is the use of language clear, compelling, and professional? (10 points)
6. *Utility*: is the work helpful to the participant and to those she/he serves? (10 points)
7. *Style*: does the paper conform to the *Turabian* manual? (10 points)

### **COURSE WRITING STANDARDS**

1. *Editing*: editorial help is available at an hourly rate. Contact the D.Min. office for the names of editors familiar with the program.
2. *Style Manual*: All written work is to be formatted according to the *Turabian* style manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition. [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0226816273/qid=1025032200/sr=1-/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/103-8003118-1534215](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0226816273/qid=1025032200/sr=1-/ref=sr_1_1/103-8003118-1534215)
3. *Expectations*: All papers are to represent original, high-quality, graduate-level work. Writing from previous courses may not be recycled.
4. *Communication*: A **hardcopy** of the edited Post-Session papers must be delivered to the D.Min. office. *Do not use email.*
5. *Title Page*: All papers should include a cover sheet with title, course information, name, address, and email address in *Turabian* format.
6. *Due date*: the Post-Session Project must be delivered to the D.Min. office postmarked no later than September 17, 2005.

### **LATE WORK**

After the deadline passes for post-session work, the maximum grade for these projects will decline by one letter grade for each week beyond the due date.

### **COURSE GRADING**

Expectations are high. An “A” indicates excellent work, a “B” rewards good effort; a “C” is marginal, etc. Grading is a composite of points earned in each phase of the course:

Pre-Session Reading	10 points	A	=	92+ points
Self-Assessment Paper	5 points	A-	=	90-92 points
Annotated Internet Bibliography	5 points	B+	=	88-89 points
		B	=	82-87 points
		B-	=	80-81 points
		C+	=	78-79 points

Session Attendance	5 points
Session Contribution	5 points
Post-Session Project	70 points

TOTAL: 100 points

**PRE-SESSION READINGS (1500 pages)**

(Required texts can be ordered directly from the AGTS Bookstore by email [adilley@agts.edu](mailto:adilley@agts.edu) or by calling 1.800.467.AGTS and asking the operator for the Bookstore.)

Allen, Ronald J. *Preaching as Believing: The Sermon as Theological Resource*. Westminster John Knox, 2002. (162 pages)

Brown, Barbara Taylor. *The Preaching Life*. Cowley Publications, 1993. (174 pages)

Craddock, Fred B. *As One without Authority*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Chalice Press, 2001. (160 pages)

Honeycutt, Frank G. *Preaching to Skeptics and Seekers*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. (183 pages)

Jeter, Joseph R. and Ronald Allen. *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching for Different Listeners in the Congregation*. Chalice Press, 2002. (197 pages)

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching 21<sup>st</sup> Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. (189 pages)

Kraft, Charles H. *Communicating Jesus' Way*. Rev. ed. Pasadena: William Carey, 1999. (140 pages)

Lowry, Eugene. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Expanded ed. Westminster John Knox, 2000. (138 pages)

Matthews, Alice. *Preaching that Speaks to Women*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003. (188 pages)

McKinney, Lora-Ellen. *The View from the Pew: What Preachers Can Learn from Church Members*. Judson Press, 2004. (110 pages)

Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (160 pages)

## ALTERNATIVE READINGS

- Duduit, Michael, ed. *Communicate with Power: Insights from America's Top Communicators*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. (240 pages)
- Goldsworthy, Graham. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. (272 pages)
- Green, Joel B. and Michael Pasquarello, III. *Narrative Reading, Narrative Preaching: Reuniting New Testament Interpretation and Proclamation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003. (192 pages)
- Hamilton, Adam. *Unleashing the Word: Preaching with Relevance, Purpose, and Passion*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. (176 pages)
- Lewis, Ralph L. and Gregg Lewis. *Inductive Preaching: Helping People Listen*. Westchester: Crossway Books, 1983. (223 pages)
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1989. (144 pages)
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Making a Difference in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (160 pages)
- Schlafer, David J. *Your Way with God's Word: Discovering Your Distinctive Preaching Voice*. Cowley Publications, 1995. (142 pages)
- Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. (351 pages)

**SPECIFIC DATA** Prepared by Earl Creps 12.18.04

