

EXPOSITORY PREACHING

March 1, 2027 – April 19, 2027

Mondays 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Zoom Format

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To challenge students who have begun the process of homiletical practice to think more deeply about how to prepare and deliver biblical, relevant sermons for a contemporary audience.
2. To expose students to creative forms of preaching (e.g. creative series, topical exposition, first-person narrative).
3. To help students develop long-term preaching habits (sermon planning, sermon resources, etc.).
4. To assist students in learning how to preach without notes for the benefit of the audience and the preacher.
5. To present students with an opportunity to preach two sermons based on the skills and ideas discussed and learned in the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced course is intended to challenge students to think about creative forms of preaching. All biblical preaching is expository preaching, which implies the importance of scripture and the Holy Spirit in every step of the process. Since, however, preaching is an act of communication to a specific audience in a specific location at a specific time, the preacher is responsible to give herself or himself to the task of communicating as effectively as possible. This task is enhanced by a commitment to creative thinking, creative presentation and a readiness to risk throughout the entire process.

The course will, therefore, focus less attention on basic homiletical practice and more attention on helping students develop confidence in creating and preaching deeper and more engaging sermons. Without minimizing the non-negotiable place of the divine in the preaching task, this course focuses upon the responsibility of the human preacher to understand the message of God's Word and to proclaim this message with clarity, relevance, creativity and passion to a contemporary audience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all classes and participate in class discussion.
2. Complete all reading assignments.
3. Complete weekly class assignments.
4. Using the strategies discussed in class, prepare and preach two sermons in the student's local ministry setting.
 - a. The first sermon will be watched during a class session, enabling the class to offer feedback that is encouraging and constructive.
 - b. The second sermon will be preached and submitted within two weeks of the last class session. The student will complete a self-evaluation and will schedule a follow-up session with the instructor for further feedback.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN: 978-0801090660. Kindle edition available.

Kim, Matthew D. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. ISBN: 978-1493411429. Kindle edition available.

Overdorf, Daniel. *One Year to Better Preaching: 52 Exercises to Hone Your Skills*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013. ISBN: 978-0825439100.

Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0687090884. Kindle edition available.

GRADING SCALE

97-100	A
94-96	A-
91-93	B+
88-90	B
85-87	B-
81-84	C+
76-80	C
72-75	C- (Minimum passing grade)
68-70	D
0-67	F

GRADING

20% — Completion of reading assignments

20% — Class participation

30% — First sermon (20-30 minutes)

30% — Second sermon (20-30 minutes)

PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE (Due by the first class session)

1. Read *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Keep a journal of your reading, recording observations, insights, questions and comments as you read. These responses will be a part of class discussion. 3-5 pages should be sufficient.
2. Read *One Year to Better Preaching*. Peruse Overdorf. List three exercises that you would be excited to implement and why you would be excited to implement them. List three exercises that you would be hesitant to implement and why you would be hesitant to implement them.
3. Choose a biblical passage from which you desire to preach.
 - a. The passage should be a text from which you have never preached a sermon.
 - b. The passage should be a literary unit of a biblical text (parable, brief narrative, short section of an epistle, or short Psalm).
 - c. During the class, we will discuss your preparation of this text. You will preach your first class sermon from this text.

ATTENDANCE:

You are responsible to be present and engaged at each scheduled class session. If you miss a class session, you are expected to watch the class video to make up the absence.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Students are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life, and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty.
- Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:
- Copying all or part of a theme, exam, paper, reading report, or other written work from another person;
- Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another;
- Quoting material from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
- Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor;
- Cheating on a test by getting answers in an unauthorized manner;
- Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the instructor.
- An instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the specific assignment and may also result in an automatic failure of the course.
- Repeat offenses will result in an automatic failure of the course.

COURSE PLAN AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, March 1, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o Choose a biblical passage from which you desire to preach your first sermon.
 - The passage should be a text from which you have never preached a sermon.
 - The passage should be a literary unit of a biblical text (parable, brief narrative, short section or paragraph of an epistle, or short Psalm).
 - o *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching* completed (**Reading Journal Due**)
- Class Discussion
 - o Course Introduction
 - o Review Expository Preaching Principles
 - o Discuss *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*
 - o Work on first sermon

Monday, March 8, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o First sermon background work
- Class Discussion
 - o Sermon outlining and structure, including deductive, inductive, plotting a sermon
 - o Share sermon background work with the class

Monday, April 15, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o *Preaching without Notes* completed
 - o Share work on first sermon
- Class Discussion
 - o Discuss *Preaching without Notes*
 - o Sermon audience: including speaking to various demographics, overhearing, sermon responses, listener interaction and input

Monday, March 22, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence* completed (**Reading Journal Due**)
 - o Pre-Sermon Discussion Group Plan: names, date, time, place
 - o Continue sermon work
- Class Discussion
 - o Discuss *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence*
 - o Sermon presentation ideas: including body language, vocal techniques, dramatic effect
 - o Share work on first class sermon

Monday, March 29, 2027

- NO CLASS FOR HOLY WEEK

Monday, April 5, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o Bring a recent news article that caught your attention. Be able to access the story during class—internet, printed page, etc. Prepare to discuss how you might incorporate this article into a sermon.
 - o Sermon manuscript draft
- Class Discussion
 - o Talk about recent news articles as they relate to preaching.
 - o Sermon illustrations
 - o Retrieval system
 - o Delivery
 - o Share sermon manuscript draft
 - o Discuss sermon memorization

Monday, April 12, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o Preach and record first sermon
 - o Ideas for second sermon—passage or topic, creative twist, etc.
- Class Discussion
 - o Watch videos of first sermons
 - o Class feedback: encouragement and improvement
 - o Second sermon questions and discussion

Monday, April 19, 2027

- Class Preparation
 - o Second sermon scripture, exegetical idea, homiletical idea and outline
- Class Discussion
 - o Present second sermon exegetical idea, homiletical idea and outline to the class
 - o Creating Preaching Plans
 - o Wedding Homilies
 - o Funeral Homilies
 - o First-person narrative sermons
 - o Concluding homiletical ideas and questions

Monday, May 10, 2027 (Midnight)

- Send to professor video recording of second sermon and self-evaluation of the sermon
- Professor will schedule a follow-up conversation to discuss the sermon.