GOAL OF THIS COURSE: As a result of taking this course, you should be able to analyze your audience so that you can preach effective messages that are both biblical and relevant. You should have completed courses in exegesis and hermeneutics so that you are able to accurately interpret the biblical text. The basic course in homiletics focuses on going from the Scripture to the sermon. This course focuses on reaching the audiences to whom we preach.

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES: You will be able to use imagination as an interpretive tool. This will be measured through creating and delivering a first-person narrative from a biblical text. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will deliver an effective introduction to your final sermon that gets attention, surfaces a need and orients the audience to a biblical passage. Present it in four (4) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will preach one life-related sermon without the use of notes. Present it in eighteen (18) minutes or less.

You will develop a keener awareness of illustrative material by collecting and filing at least 20 (20) new illustrations. The illustrations may be on any subject but they must have been acquired during the weeks the class is in session. To get you into the routine of constantly searching for illustrations, you will bring two illustrations to class each week.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

- Robinson, *Biblical Sermons*.

- Audio Sermons

**Recommended:**


**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**I. READING**

A. Read *It’s All In How You Tell It* and simply report that you have read the book. **Due on Wednesday, March 14th.**

B. Read *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*, edited by Keith Willhite and Scott Gibson. Answer the first two questions at the end of each chapter: What is the chapter talking about? What is the chapter saying about what it’s talking about? **Due: One chapter per week.** Hand in a card with subject/complement each week.

C. Read *Made to Stick* by Chip Heath & Dan Heath. (see section II.A).

D. Read *Biblical Sermons* ed. by Haddon Robinson. Then read *Preaching that Connects* by Mark Galli and Craig Larson. (see section III.B.)

E. Read Arthurs, *Preaching with Variety*. Then, focus on the chapter(s) that best corresponds to your final preaching passage(s). How did the principles in that chapter inform the way you preached your passage? Reflect on the preparation and delivery of your final sermon in light of the book. You will present your evaluation to the class during finals week, Wednesday, May 2nd.

**II. PAPER**

A. Listen to two sermons (total) from your favorite preacher(s). Then read *Made to Stick* by Chip Heath & Dan Heath. Hand in one report for each sermon. At the top of your paper, write out the name of the preacher, sermon title, name of church and date that it was preached. Each report should be no more than (2) two pages double-spaced. **Due Wednesday, February 29th.** In your paper, do the following:

1. Did the preacher communicate a clear, central idea? Do you believe it was derived from the passage?
2. What makes this preacher one of your favorites? What is it about his/her preaching that resonates with you?
3. Take two principles discussed in *Made to Stick* and illustrate them at work in the sermons you listened to.
III. DISCUSSION/SERMON ANALYSIS

A. Listen to four sermons, then meet with a small group from your class to discuss them. Spend a minimum of 1½ hours in discussion. Use the discussion questions on page eleven (11) of this syllabus for your analysis. Dig deep. Analyze. Due on last day of class, Wednesday, May 2nd.

First-Person Narratives (listen to these and discuss them by our last day of class. Bryan Wilkerson, “Encounter on Golgotha Road,” (4/5/09 www.grace.org/audio)

Need-Based Sermons (listen to and discuss by our last day of class, Wednesday, May 2nd.)
1. Bryan Wilkerson, “Thinking Biblically About Homosexuality”
2. Andy Stanley, “Taking Care of Business, Part One: Meet the Boss” (iTunes, North Point Community Church podcast)

B. Meet with your small group to discuss Biblical Sermons and Preaching that Connects:
1. Based on what you know of homiletics, which of the sermons in Biblical Sermons did you consider the strongest and which the weakest. Why?
2. Take three principles discussed in Preaching that Connects and illustrate them at work in sermons from Biblical Sermons.

Dr. Arthurs’ Tips for Group Discussion:

Not: “The preacher had good delivery. I liked it, and it was easy to listen to.”

But: “The preacher’s delivery was captivating because of her expert use of the pause. She used silence to rivet attention at two crucial points: x and y. Besides the expert use of silence, the preacher’s voice reinforced the content very well. When she described her childhood joys, her voice was lively and quick. When she expressed anger, I could hear it in her flat pitch and harsh tone.”

Not: “I couldn’t figure out the preacher’s big idea.”

But: “I was confused as I listened and am still confused as I try to state the preacher’s big idea. It seems that the preacher had two big ideas, x and y, but he did not demonstrate how they relate to each other or how they arise from the text. The intro ‘funneled’ nicely into x, but then the conclusion stated y.”
IV. ILLUSTRATIONS

A. Bring two illustrations to class each week. They must be illustrations that you collected during the course of the week.

V. PREACHING

A. First-Person Narrative—preach a contemporary first-person sermon based on Matthew 18:21-35. Tell the story in a modern setting keeping the theological dynamics of the parable in clear focus. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less.

B. Introduction—prepare an introduction for your final sermon. The introduction should gain attention, surface a need, and orient us to what follows in your sermon. Four (4) minutes.

C. Final Sermon—Your final sermon will start with a problem faced by someone in a congregation. In your introduction you will express that problem as someone might express it in conversation. In your sermon you will speak to that person’s problem from a biblical text. Deliver the message with enthusiasm and directness. Use eye contact and gestures. The sermon will be preached without notes (except, of course, for quotes and statistics). Eighteen (18) minutes or less.

D. Final Sermon Manuscript and Outline—Due the day you preach.

Include:
- Your text
- Exegetical idea (subject and complement)
- Homiletical idea
- Purpose—state in three brief phrases what you want the listeners to Think, Feel, and Do as a result of your sermon
- Complete sentences
- One sentence per point/move
- Write out transitions word for word. Use italics. I suggest using rhetorical questions and restatement.
- Write out intro and conclusion word for word.

V. ILLUSTRATIONS

Collect 20 illustrations. The illustrations must be collected during the course of the class.

VI. GRADING

100–94=A  93–90 = A-
89-87 = B+  
86-84 = B  
83-80 = B-  
etc.

All work is due on the day assigned. Late work will receive a 0, although I will be happy to give you feedback, if you desire it. If you experience illness or emergency, please speak to me personally. In those cases, your grade will not be penalized. At the end of the semester borderline cases will be determined on the basis of class participation, but no grade will be raised more than 4 points.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1st:  
Introduction & Introductions  
“Preaching Essentials—Review”  
“The Commitments of an Expository Preacher”

Read for next time: Acts 2. In addition to the work of the Holy Spirit, why did the sermon produce the response it did?

Wednesday, February 8th:  
“Who is My Audience? Does it Matter?”  
“A Look at One of History’s Greatest Sermons”

DUE: Think of two (2) problems faced by individuals in your church. Describe them in personal terms (how do people express them?) What theological problems lie behind the surface problems? What biblical passages might you go to in addressing these problems?

DUE: subj/comp chapter 1, Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.

DUE: two illustrations

Wednesday, February 15th:  
SERMON INTRODUCTIONS

DUE: Preaching passage for final sermon.


DUE: two illustrations
READING WEEK

“The Path from a Text to a Sermon,” Matt. 18:1-20
“Tell Me a Story of Jesus”

**DUE:** Read Matt. 18:21-35. What do you think are the subject/complement of this narrative?

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 3, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations

**DUE:** Report on *Made to Stick,* See page two (2) of this syllabus, section IIA.

“Imagination: A Forgotten Tool in Interpretation & Communication”

“Show & Don’t Tell”

“Speaking for the Ear”

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 4, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations

FIRST-PERSON NARRATIVES

Prepare a first-person narrative based on Matt. 18:21-35. Tell the story in a modern setting keeping the theological dynamics of the parable in clear focus. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less.

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 5, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations
**DUE:** Read *It's All in How You Tell It.*

**Wednesday, March 21st:**

**FIRST-PERSON NARRATIVES**

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 6, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations

**Wednesday, March 28th:**

**READING WEEK:** Review lecture notes from Wednesday, February 15th. Write your first-person narrative.

**Wednesday, April 4th:**

“The Case for Application”
“Application Caution”
“A Model for Application”
“Applying Make-Up”

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 7, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations

**Wednesday, April 11th:**

**FINAL SERMONS**

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 8, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**DUE:** two illustrations

**Wednesday, April 18th:**

**FINAL SERMONS**

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 9, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*

**Wednesday, April 25th:**

**FINAL SERMONS**

**DUE:** subj/comp chapter 10, *Big Idea of Biblical Preaching.*
Wednesday, May 2nd: FINAL SERMON REFLECTION PRESENTATION

**DUE:** Reading Report

**DUE:** two illustrations
Attendance and Reading Report—PR602
(Please hand this in on the last day of class)

Name: ____________________________

Box: _______

Number of classes attended: _______

Did you meet with your group to discuss the sermons? _______

Did you read *It’s All in How You Tell It* in its entirety? _______

Did you read *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching* and hand in subject/complement for each chapter? _______

Did you collect 20 illustrations? _______

Final Sermon Reflection Presentation. Deduct one letter grade for failing to complete this assignment.

Sermon Introduction _______(grade) 15%

First-Person Narrative _______(grade) 25%

Final Sermon & Manuscript _______(grade) 35%

Final Sermon Outline _______(grade) 5%

Report on sermons and *Made To Stick* _______(grade) 5%

Reading Report _______(grade) 15%

Attendance & Class Participation

*The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*

*It’s All in How You Tell It*

Report on sermons and *Made To Stick*

Sermon Analyses with group

20 Sermon Illustrations
Questions to Consider When Listening to or Reading a Sermon

For the CD listening assignment: Please write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific—give examples for what is asked.

1. What do you think is the main idea or concept the preacher was trying to get across? Please state it and analyze and comment on it.

2. When through with the introduction, did you want the preacher to go on? Y/N Did it capture interest so that you would want him/her to continue? Y/N How did he/she do? Analyze and comment.

3. Did he/she illustrate? Y/N If so, what did he/she do? – to explain, prove or apply? Did he/she succeed? Y/N Why or why not? Analyze and comment. You must provide specific examples of how the preacher explained, proved or applied the text.

4. Do you think the conclusion drove home the main idea of the sermon in a way that caused you to want to respond? Analyze and comment.

5. What do you think that you as a listener might do, think or change as a result of hearing the sermon?

6. Do you think the delivery helped or hindered the presentation? What were its strengths? What about weaknesses? Analyze and comment.

7. Do you think that the sermon grew out of the biblical text? Or was it imposed on it? Analyze and comment.
Evaluation Sheet: Final Sermon
PR 602, Batten

Name: ________________________________   Time: ______
Box: _____________       Grade: ______

Intro
Gain Attention
Surface Need
Introduce Idea

Exegesis

Relevance
Adapted to the audience
Application

Central Idea
Clear
Repeated

Arrangement
Clear/logical
Transitions

Conclusion
Summarize
Reinforce

Language and Delivery
GAIN ATTENTION:

SURFACE A NEED:

INTRODUCE SUBJECT/IDEA/FIRST MOVE:

LANGUAGE/DELIVERY:
Gain Attention?

True to the theology of the passage?

Language and Delivery: