I. Course Description

This course is designed to enable advanced preaching students to build upon the foundation of constructing and practicing expository sermons learned in the foundation courses of homiletics and biblical studies. Students will be actively involved in the exegesis, the homiletical considerations, and the preaching of sermons. PR 601 Preaching Principles and Practice and PR 602 Preaching for Modern Listeners are prerequisites for the course.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

This course builds on the skills acquired in PR 601 and PR 602. Students will be exposed to developing sermons from various biblical genres, while being sensitive to the homiletical considerations. Students will engage in the process of moving from text to preached sermon.

III. Course Objective

Students will work through selected passages from different types of biblical literature to determine the idea and its development, and how to handle the idea homiletically. Students will preach a sermon based on the study of the passages. Students will read three books and collect illustrations for future sermons.

IV. Course Textbooks


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at *all* lectures and exercises.

2. Read Scripture in class.

3. Present the biblical and homiletical background to a sermon previously delivered in a worship setting.

4. Preach a previously delivered sermon (25 minute maximum) to the class.

5. Do subject, complement, and idea for each passage given in class. You will be responsible for being the “expert” on one of the passages.

6. Collect and file at least twenty-five new (25) illustrations. You will report whether you have completed this assignment on the last day of class. Due 27 April 2012.

7. Read Long, *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Based on what you know about homiletics, take at least four of the principles discussed in *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible* and discuss how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. The report is due 2 March 2012.

8. Read McDill, *The Moment of Truth*. Based on what you know about homiletics, take at least four of the principles discussed in *The Moment of Truth* and discuss how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. The report is due 6 April 2012.

9. Read Wiersbe, *On Being a Servant of God*. Based on what you know about homiletics, take at least four of the principles discussed in *On Being a Servant of God* and discuss how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. The report is due 27 April 2012.

10. Read Gibson, *Preaching with a Plan*. Based on what you know about homiletics, take at least four of the principles discussed in *Preaching with a Plan* and discuss how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. The report is due 27 April 2012.

11. You will be assigned a passage of Scripture to exegete and preach. Passages will be assigned on 10 February. Prepare for exegesis presentation on 16 March, homiletical considerations on 23 March, and preaching will take place on 6, 13, 20 and 27 April.

12. Prepare and hand in an outline of the sermon on an assigned text that will be graded. Due 23 March to Dr. Gibson.
13. Prepare and hand in a manuscript of the sermon on an assigned text that will be graded. Due on the day you preach.

14. Plan to have a good time and enjoy the sessions together! Come prepared to contribute to the learning process.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for the class. If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be to class on time.

B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

See the calendar in the catalog. All late work will be penalized.

C. Assistance

Please come to see Dr. Gibson with your questions. He has a sign up sheet located outside his office.

VII. Course Calendar

3 February
Introduction to the Class
The Purpose of Preaching
The Public Reading of Scripture

10 February
Sermon Parts and Presentation

17 February
No Class

READING WEEK 20 – 24 FEBRUARY
Reading Week Assignment: Prepare (previously delivered 25 minute maximum) sermon.

2 March
Preaching
Due: Long report

9 March
Preaching

16 March
Understanding the Text Exegetically
Exegesis Presentation

23 March
Understanding the Text Homiletically
Homiletics Presentation
Outline of sermon due (graded)
READING WEEK 26 – 30 MARCH
Reading Week Assignment: Prepare for the preaching of the genre-related 30 minute (maximum) sermon.

6 April Preaching Manuscript of sermon due (graded)

13 April Preaching Manuscript of sermon due (graded)

20 April Preaching Manuscript of sermon due (graded)

27 April Preaching Manuscript of sermon due (graded)

VIII. Format for Sermons

a. Please remember to place your name and box number either on a cover sheet or at the top of the first page.

b. At the top of the page will be the following:

Text: (This is the address of the biblical passage from which you are preaching.)

Subject: (What is the author talking about? Don't forget to use an interrogative: who, what, why, when, where, which, how.)

Complement: (What is the author saying about what he is talking about?)

Main/Exegetical Idea: (Subject + Complement = Main Idea)

Homiletical Idea: (This is a pithy statement of your main idea.)

Purpose: (Why are you preaching this sermon? A purpose is specific and measurable.) “As a result of hearing this sermon, I want my listeners to....

What follows is either your outline or manuscript. Remember to write your outline in full sentences. Put transitions into parentheses. Outlines should have a complete introduction, conclusion, and transitions written out in full. A clear outline will be clear to your listeners.

As for manuscripts, follow the model of the outline by indenting your paragraphs to help you to see the flow of the sermon.
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Advanced Seminar in Preaching PR 703
Spring 2012 Dr. Scott M. Gibson

How many class sessions did you attend? 

_________ (check if) all, or

_________ (give number).

How many illustrations did you collect? 

_________ (give number). 5%

Did you read all the pages assigned? 

_________ (Y/N and %).

Long reflection paper 

_________ (grade). 5%

McDill reflection paper 

_________ (grade). 5%

Gibson reflection paper 

_________ (grade) 5%

Wiersbe reflection paper 

_________ (grade) 5%

Sermon (previously preached) 

_________ (grade) 15%

Preparation for exegetical session 

_________ (grade). 10%

Preparation for homiletical session 

_________ (grade). 10%

Sermon outline 

_________ (grade). 10%

Sermon/manuscript 

_________ (grade). 30%

Course Grade 

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