I. Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to various homiletical theories and methods. This will be done by studying the writings of different authors and by listening to sermons preached by those who advocate a given perspective. Students will examine the works and preaching of Davis, Koller, Fosdick, Lowry, Craddock, Buttrick, Chapell, and Robinson, among others. This course is not a substitute for PR 601 or PR 602. Prerequisite: PR 601 is required. Although PR 602 is advisable, it is not required. Master of Theology students may enroll in this course for Th.M. credit.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

This course is a seminar on various preaching theories and methodologies. It will broaden the student’s knowledge of the field of preaching, building on what has been taught in PR 601 and PR 602 and the wider curriculum. The aim of the course is help students understand and evaluate different preaching theories and methods.

III. Course Goal and Objectives

Goal: To enable students to evaluate and engage with the theological, philosophical and practical development of homiletics in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Objectives: As a result of this course students should (1) Gain a perspective of the development of various theologies behind a person’s preaching. (2) Be able to discern the nuances of different preaching theologies, philosophies and methodologies. (3) Understand how these theologies, philosophies and methodologies work in the practice of preaching. (4) Be able to analyze sermons with these sensitivities in mind. (5) Develop one’s own theology and practice of preaching.
IV. Course Textbooks

Required:


Harry Emerson Fosdick, “Personal Counseling and Preaching,” *Pastoral Psychology*. March 1952: 11-15. (Will be distributed by the professor.)

H. Grady Davis, “What is the Matter with Preaching?” *College of the Bible Quarterly*. October 1952: 5-18. (Will be distributed by the professor.)


Recommended:


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at all lectures and exercises.

2. Read Eslinger, *A New Hearing*. Rather than read the book in a single sitting or two, you will profit more through reading it section by section as it is discussed in class.

3. Read Fosdick’s two articles and write report.


9. Read Robinson, *Biblical Preaching* (Re-read or scan.) and MacArthur/Lutzer article and write report.


11. Reading report (back page of syllabus) is due on the last day of classes for the semester.

12. All book reports are to be three to five (3-5) single-spaced pages 12 point type.

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 at class on time.
B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

Late work will not be accepted.

C. Assistance

Please come to see me with your questions. I have a sign up sheet located outside my office.

VII. Course Calendar

Friday, 1 February: Introduction to the Course
Friday, 8 February: No Class
Friday, 15 February: Due: Fosdick (two articles) reading report

18 - 22 February  READING WEEK
Work on Koller and Kaiser assignment.

Friday 1 March: Due: Koller (pp. 9 - 120, part one) reading report
Kaiser: pages 7 - 40; 149 - 247

Friday, 8 March: Due: Davis reading report

Friday, 15 March: Due: Eslinger: pages 133 - 171
Buttrick: pages 5 – 79 reading report

Friday, 22 March: Due: Craddock reading report
Eslinger: pages 95 - 132

25 - 29 March  READING WEEK
Work on Lowy assignment.

Friday, 5 April: Due: Lowry reading report
Eslinger: pages 64 - 94

Friday, 12 April: Due: Chapell and Langley reading report

Friday, 19 April Due: Robinson: “Homiletics and Hermeneutics”
Homiletics & Hermeneutics”

Friday, 26 April: Wrap-up: The Future of Homiletics

VIII. Reports on Books/Articles
For the three to five (3-5) page report (12 point type single spaced) on the books, please consider the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the book/article?
2. Summarize the thrust of the author’s argument.
3. What are the distinctive elements of the author’s approach to preaching?
4. What have you learned from reading the book?
5. What will you apply to your preaching from what you have learned?

IX. Grading

As for all written assignments, I am looking for good use of grammar, interaction with the material, spelling, etc. The Student Handbook spells out the rigorous call for excellence in all grading assignments, which will be followed in the course. See below.

The Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Student Handbook, p., 52. states:

Grade A is given for meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination.

Grade B is given for exceeding the minimum satisfactory attainment and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence.

Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.

Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material.

Grade F declares that the course has been failed.

Name ________________________________       Box __________
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
PR 905
Preachers and Preaching:
Homiletical Theories and Methods

Spring 2013
Dr. Scott M. Gibson

How many class sessions did you attend?  ________________ (check if) all,
or

______________ (give number). 5%

Did you read the assigned Eslinger pages?  ________________ (yes/no). 7%

Report on Fosdick:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Davis:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Buttrick:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Koller/Kaiser:  ________________ (grade). 12%

Report on Craddock:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Lowry:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Chapell/Langley:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Report on Robinson/MacArthur/Lutzer:  ________________ (grade). 8%

Class participation  ________________ (grade). 20%

(Late work will be penalized.)

Course Grade  ________________