Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary — Hamilton
PR 926A/B: The Preacher and the Message
Syllabus: Fall 2011 & Spring 2012

Dr. Scott M. Gibson
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Hamilton Campus
Hours by Appointment
(978) 646-4152
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Monday 6:00-9:00 p.m.: 12 September, 17 October, 14 November, 5 December, 6 February, 5 March, 2 April, 23 April meeting at Dr. & Mrs. Gibson’s home.

I. Course Description

The Preacher and the Message is the unique mentoring component of the Master of Theology in Preaching program. Students will meet with the preaching faculty and occasional guests to discuss what it means for the preacher to interact with his or her congregation, people, spouse, and ministry priorities. The class will meet at Dr. and Mrs. Gibson’s home for a meal and a presentation and discussion.

PR 926A and PR 926B together constitute one course. Students who register for PR 926A must take PR 926B in the spring in order to receive any credit for the course. This course is limited to Th.M. students only.

II. Course Relation to the Curriculum

The Preacher and the Message is one of the two required courses of the Master of Theology in Preaching degree. The course serves as the mentoring component for all Master of Theology in Preaching students.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should: (1) Have a basic concept of what it means to be a preacher. (2) Understand the skills needed to lead from the pulpit. (3) Understand how a preacher relates to listeners. (4) Learn how to develop priorities as a preacher. (5) Understand the dynamic effect of culture on the preacher and preaching. (6) Develop a cohort mentoring experience for Master of Theology in Preaching students.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:

Scott M. Gibson, ed., *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004).


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at all sessions.

2. Write a one to two (1-2) page single-spaced response paper after each session, integrating the reading and session presentation and discussion. *Due the Friday following each session.* Consider the following questions: 1.) What was discussed? 2.) What did you learn? 3.) What issues or ideas challenged you thinking about preaching? 4.) What are the biblical/theological issues that the discussion raised? 5.) What might you do to integrate what was discussed? 6.) What other concerns, thoughts, ideas do you want to write about?

3. Read Gibson, *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and a report on what you learned from reading this book. Comment on at least four issues discussed in *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and write how you might apply them to your preaching and understanding of preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. *Due 17 October 2011.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 17 October 2011.

4. Read McCullough, *Say Please, Say Thank You* and report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Say Please, Say Thank You* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. *Due 14 November 2011.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 14 November 2011.

5. Read Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* and report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. *Due 6 February 2012.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 6 February 2012.
6. Read Stott, *The Preacher’s Portrait*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *The Preacher’s Portrait* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 5 March 2012. We will discuss the book and its contents on 5 March 2012.

7. Read Leeman, *reverberation*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *reverberation* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 2 April 2012. We will discuss the book and its contents on 2 April 2012. EXTRA CREDIT: Read Gibson, *Preaching with a Plan: Sermon Strategies for Growing Mature Believers* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012).

8. Read Hansen, *Loving the Church You Lead*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *The Power of Loving Your Church* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 23 April 2012. We will discuss the book and its contents on 23 April 2012.


10. Other readings may be assigned.

VI. Course Administration

   A. Attendance Policy
      Attendance is required for the class. Please make every effort to be on time for class.

   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 Outline (Topics are subject to change.)

12 September  What Does it Mean to Be a Preacher?
17 October  Our Shifting Culture
14 November  The Preacher and People
5 December  Trends in Preaching
6 February  Preaching and Plagiarism
5 March    Roles of a Preacher
2 April    Preaching and Maturing Believers
23 April   The Preacher and Priorities in Ministry
Name______________________________    Box__________

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How many class sessions did you attend? _______________ (check if) all

Session reports: _______________ 12 Sept. 2011

Due 12:00PM Friday after each session.

_____________ 17 Oct. 2011
_____________ 14 Nov. 2011
_____________ 5 Dec. 2011
_____________ 6 Feb. 2012
_____________ 5 Mar. 2012
_____________ 2 Apr. 2012
_____________ 23 Apr. 2012

Report on Gibson (Shifting Culture): _______________

Report on McCullough: _______________

Report on Gibson (Should We Use): _______________

Report on Stott: _______________

Report on Hansen: _______________

I read Making a Difference in Preaching _______________ (yes/no)

EXTRA CREDIT:
Read Gibson, Preaching with a Plan _______________ (yes/no)

What grade would you give yourself for class participation?

_____________

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade _______________