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 Goal and Objectives

Goal: Develop a cohort mentoring experience for Master of Theology in Preaching students as they explore aspects of what it means to be a preacher and what it means to preach.

Objectives: As a result of this course students should: (1) Articulate a basic concept of what it means to be a preacher. (2) List the characteristics of our current culture and what impact these characteristics have upon preaching. (3) Verbalize how a preacher deals with others in terms of hospitality and manners. (4) Articulate current trends in preaching and to analyze these trends critically. (5) Define and understand preaching and plagiarism. (6) Articulate and apply the seven lessons for new pastors. (7) State why preaching is conducted for the purpose of maturing others in the faith. (8) Demonstrate the importance of excellence in the preparation of and reading of Scripture in public.
IV. Course Textbooks

Required:

Jeffrey D. Arthurs, Devote Yourselves to the Public Reading: The Transforming Power of the Well Spoken Word (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012).


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

Scott M. Gibson, Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon? Preaching in a Cut and Paste World (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008).

Matthew D. Kim, 7 Lessons for New Pastors (St. Louis: Chalice, 2012).

Jonathan Leeman, reverberation: how God’s word brings light, freedom, and action to His people (Chicago: Moody, 2011).

Donald W. McCullough, Say Please, Say Thank You: The Respect We Owe Each Other (New York: Putnam, 1998).


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at all sessions.

2. PLEASE NOTE: 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? [Please frame your paper according to these six categories.]

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 1 October 2012.

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 5 November 2012.

5. 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 3 December 2012.

6. 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 4 February 2013.

7. Read Kim, 7 Lessons for New Pastors. 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 7 Lessons for New Pastors and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 4 March 2013.

8. 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).

9. Read Arthurs, Devote Yourselves to the Public Reading. 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 Devote Yourselves to the Public Reading and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 29 April 2013.


11. 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.)

10 September The Preacher and Preaching
1 October Our Shifting Culture
5 November The Preacher and People
3 December Trends in Preaching
4 February Preaching and Plagiarism
4 March 7 Lessons for New Pastors
1 April Preaching and Maturing Believers
29 April Preaching and the Word
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary — Hamilton
PR 926A/B: The Preacher and the Message
Syllabus: Fall 2012 & Spring 2013
Dr. Scott M. Gibson

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

Session reports: 14 Sept. 2012

Due 12:00PM Friday after each session.

5 Oct. 2012
9 Nov. 2012
7 Dec. 2012
8 Feb. 2013
8 Mar. 2013
5 Apr. 2013
3 May 2013

Report on Gibson (Shifting Culture):

Report on McCullough:

Report on Stott:

Report on Gibson (Should We Use):

Report on Kim:

Report on Leeman:

Report on Arthurs:

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