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 the Gibson’s or Arthurs’ 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:


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 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

4. 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 November 2013.

5. 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 9 December 2013.

6. 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 27 January 2014.

7. 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 24 February 2014.

8. 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 24 March 2014.

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 21 April 2014.


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. I’m on sabbatical spring semester 2014. Dr. Arthurs will oversee the class during spring semester.

VII. Course Outline (Topics are subject to change.)

9 September    The Preacher and Preaching
7 October      Preaching and Maturing Believers
4 November     Preaching and Plagiarism
9 December     The Preacher and People
27 January     Our Shifting Culture
24 February    Trends in Preaching
24 March       7 Lessons for New Pastors
21 April       Preaching and the Word
Name ___________________________  Box ____________

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary — Hamilton
PR 926A/B: The Preacher and the Message
Syllabus: Fall 2013 & Spring 2014
Dr. Scott M. Gibson (fall) and Dr. Jeffrey D. Arthurs (spring)

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

Session reports:__________________________ 13 Sept. 2013

Due 12:00PM Friday after each session.

____________________ 11 Oct. 2013
____________________ 8 Nov. 2013
____________________ 13 Dec. 2013
____________________ 31 Jan. 2014
____________________ 28 Feb. 2014
____________________ 28 Mar. 2014
____________________ 25 Apr. 2014

Report on Leeman: ________________________

Report on Gibson (Should We Use): ____________

Report on McCullough: ________________

Report on Gibson (Shifting Culture): ________________

Report on Stott: ________________________

Report on Kim: ________________________

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 ________________________