I. Course Description

This course is designed to enable the student to construct an expository sermon based upon the skills of exegesis. Students will gain experience explaining, proving, and applying a biblical passage and delivering two biblical sermons without notes. A year of a biblical language and/or NT 502 Interpreting the New Testament is a prerequisite for the course.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

This course is an introduction to the principles of preparing relevant biblical sermons. Lectures and exercises cover a stage-by-stage explanation of how preachers think as they prepare to preach. The aim of the course is to help students understand what is required to preach effectively and to practice what they understand. Recitation sessions provide opportunity for students to preach and have their efforts critiqued by the professor.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should be able to deliver a sermon without the use of notes derived from the biblical text. In order to accomplish this, the student will: (A) Have a basic procedure that moves one from the biblical text to a sermon based on that text. (B) Develop skill in constructing a clear outline consisting of full, declarative sentences that relate to a basic idea. The outline should also show transitions in parentheses between the major points and if necessary the supporting points. This will be measured by handing in an outline of the first and the final sermons for grading. (C) Have a working definition of expository preaching. (D) Understand the basic elements in sermon construction and what they should accomplish—introduction, central idea (based on an exegetical idea), transitions, illustrations, development of the sermon, and conclusion. (E) Begin to develop a skill in writing a sermon manuscript geared to the way audiences listen. (F) Develop an
effective filing system for supporting materials used in sermons. This will be measured by a report on the system at the end of the course. Students will collect at least seventy-five (75) new illustrations. (G) Watch and listen to five (5) assigned video recorded sermons and determine what makes an effective sermon. (H) Read one book on the theology of preaching. (I) Read one book on preaching and plagiarism. (J) Students will measure their ability to interact with the course reading and lectures by sitting a final examination. (K) Listen to *Pulpit Talk* audio journal for review and reinforcement of class lectures and practice. (L) Preach two sermons. (M) Students will memorize a verse of Scripture.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:

- DVD for 5 sermon evaluations: [http://www.gordonconwellstore.org/servlet/the-192/PR601-Sample-Sermons/Detail](http://www.gordonconwellstore.org/servlet/the-192/PR601-Sample-Sermons/Detail) (mac users type/copy into web browser directly)
- PR601 Pulpit Talk set: [http://www.gordonconwellstore.org/servlet/the-140/PR601-Pulpit-TalkSet/Detail](http://www.gordonconwellstore.org/servlet/the-140/PR601-Pulpit-TalkSet/Detail) (mac users type/copy into web browser directly)

V. Course Requirements

1. Attendance at lectures and exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS!

2. Develop a filing system for collecting supporting material for sermons. The system can be on 3x5 cards, 4x6 cards, or in a computer. During the course of the semester, collect and file at least seventy-five (75) illustrations. You will report whether you have completed this
assignment on the last day of class. Students will send their ten best illustrations to the entire class via email.

3. Read Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*. 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.

4. Read Willhite and Gibson, *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Write a 1-2 page single-spaced paper using the following questions: a. What is the central idea of the book? b. Summarize the thrust of the editors’ argument. In light of this, why did Willhite and Gibson select the chapters from other authors to be included in the book? c. Discuss at least three things you learned from reading the book. Please turn in a paper copy under my office door.

5. Read Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* Write a 1-2-page single-spaced paper using the following questions: a. What is the central idea of the book? b. Discuss at least three things you learned from reading the book. c. How will you apply this book to your preaching? Please turn in a paper copy under my office door.


7. Complete reading for Piper.

*Note: Both the eight (8) and fifteen (15) minute sermons should be brand new sermons which you have not preached before in any context.*

8. Prepare an outline for the first sermon. The professor will correct the outline and return it to the student. The student will be able to rework the outline one time (for a higher grade) and the original and revised outlines will be turned in on the day you preach. Once the sermon is preached, the correction of the outline for a higher grade is not an option.

9. Prepare a manuscript for the first sermon. Due the day you preach. This will be an eight (8) minute message without using notes. The manuscript should be about 1.5 pages single-spaced.

10. Watch and listen to five (5) sermons on DVD purchased from Gordon-Conwell’s web site. Please refer to the list of questions in this syllabus — section IX. Complete thoroughly the questions for each sermon. Please turn in a paper copy under my office door.
11. Prepare an outline for the second sermon. The outline must conform to that which has been taught in class. The professor will correct the outline and return it to the student. You will have one opportunity to resubmit the outline for a second evaluation. The second outline is not graded but should be completed for your benefit.

12. Prepare a manuscript for a complete sermon that both explains and applies the passage. This will be a fifteen (15) minute message without notes. The manuscript and outline (both original and corrected) are due the day you preach. The manuscript should be about 3 pages single-spaced.

13. Listen to Pulpit Talk segments to reinforce understanding of course concepts.


15. Students will memorize Romans 1:16.

**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

See the course calendar. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!

C. Assistance

Please see me during office hours with your questions.
# VII. Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 11</td>
<td>Introductions (Course and Classmates)</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Preface and Ch. 1.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Character of Preaching</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What is Expository Preaching?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 18</td>
<td>What’s the Big Idea?</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 2.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Essentials of an Effective Sermon</td>
<td>Due: Book Report Willhite by 2pm today (paper copy)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Follow up: Listen to Pulpit Talk 4:2.</td>
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<td>Sep. 25</td>
<td>Do I Have Anything to Preach?</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 3-6.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Exegetical and Homiletical Idea</td>
<td>Read also: Sunukjian Ch. 7-10.</td>
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<td>The Shapes Sermons Take (Outlines)</td>
<td>Listen to Pulpit Talk 4:3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Making Dry Bones Live (Illustrations)</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 7-8.</td>
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<td>The Sharp Edge of Filing</td>
<td>Due: Select Passages for Sermons 1 and 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Getting Off to a Good Start (Introductions)</td>
<td>Listen to Pulpit Talk 3:3, 1:2 &amp; 3:1.</td>
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<td>All’s Well That Ends Well (Conclusions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td><em>Dr. Kim at Evangelical Homiletics Society Conference in Chicago - No Class</em></td>
<td>Due: 5 Sermon DVD Exercise by 2pm today (paper copy office door)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td><em>Reading Week – No Class</em></td>
<td>Work on Outline for Sermon 1</td>
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<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Words on Target (Writing a Manuscript)</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 9-10.</td>
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<td>Dynamics of Sermon Delivery</td>
<td>Due: Outline for Sermon 1 by 2pm today (email only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript (paper copy)</td>
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### deadlines:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Outlines and manuscript (paper copy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Reading Week – No Class</td>
<td>Outline for Sermon 2</td>
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<td>Thur., Nov. 13th by 12pm noon (email only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Outlines and manuscript (paper copy)</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Outlines and manuscript (paper copy)</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>2 Book Reports – Gibson and Stott</td>
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<td>Today by 4pm (Paper copies office door)</td>
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<td>10 Best Illustrations (email to class)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Final sheet of syllabus (p. 10)</td>
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<td>Today by 4pm (Paper copy office door)</td>
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### VIII. Your Sermon Will Be Graded on the Following:

**NOTE:** There will be a 30-second grace period. After those 30 seconds, there will be a 1/3 letter grade penalty for every 30 seconds over the time limit.

**A. Content**

1. Is the sermon clear? Is it well organized? Does it flow easily? Does the audience understand you?
2. Does the sermon have effective content? Is it based on sound exegesis? Does it have good supporting material and relevant illustrations?

**B. Delivery**

1. Does your delivery sound as though you really want to communicate? Does your voice have variety? Are you enthusiastic?
2. Does your body support what you are saying? Do you have eye contact that is direct and personal? Do you use gestures?
3. Do you want to be heard? Do you demonstrate conviction and sincerity?

**IX. Questions to Consider for the DVD Sermon Exercise**

**For the assignment:** Write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific — give examples for what is asked. For each sermon, your responses to these seven questions should be approximately 2-3 single spaced pages.

1. What do you think is the main idea or concept the preacher was trying to get across? Please state it and analyze and comment on it.

2. When through with the introduction, did you want the preacher to go on? Y/N Did it capture interest so that you would want him/her to continue? Y/N How did he/she do? Analyze and comment.

3. Did he/she illustrate? Y/N If so, what did he/she do? — to explain, prove or apply? Did he/she succeed? Y/N Why or why not? Analyze and comment. You must provide specific examples of how the preacher explained, proved, or applied the text.

4. Do you think the conclusion drove home the main idea of the sermon in a way that caused you to want to respond? Analyze and comment.

5. What do you think that you as a listener might do, think or change as a result of hearing the sermon?

6. Do you think the delivery helped or hindered the presentation? What were its strengths? What about weaknesses? Analyze and comment.

7. Do you think that the sermon grew out of the biblical text? Or was it imposed on it? Analyze and comment.

**X. Grading**

The percentage categories on the back sheet of the syllabus equal 100. However, since this is a skills course, I take into consideration improvement in the student’s performance in oral assignments. Conversely, a digression in a student’s performance is also a factor that goes into 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 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.

XI. 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.
Name ___________________________________________  Box ____________________

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
PR 601-HC Preaching: Principles and Practice in
Preparing Relevant and Biblical Sermons
Fall 2014
Kim

How many class sessions did you attend? ___________________ (check if) all,
or
___________________ (give number).

How many illustrations did you collect out of 75? ___________________ (grade). 5%

Did you develop a file system? Please describe:

Did you listen to PulpitTalk? __________________ (yes/no).

Give yourself a letter grade for required reading.
(Quantity and quality) __________________ (grade). 5%

Report on Willhite and Gibson, The Big Idea __________________ (grade). 5%

Report on Stott, Between Two Worlds __________________ (grade). 5%

Report on Gibson, Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon __________________ (grade). 5%

Outline for the first sermon __________________ (grade). 5%

8 minute sermon __________________ (grade). 20%

Sermon DVD Exercise __________________ (grade). 10%

15 minute sermon __________________ (grade). 30%

Final Examination __________________ (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade __________________