NT/PR 655: From Text to Sermon: Exegesis and Preaching of NT Genres  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Spring 2014

Professors
Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs  
jarthurs@gcts.edu  
978-646-4191

Dr. Roy Ciampa  
RCiampa@gcts.edu  
978-646-4083

Course Description
Integration of exegesis and homiletics. Presents a realistic, workable method for doing exegesis and homiletics in the busy world of active ministry. Prepare biblical, clear, edifying, and even creative sermons in 10-12 hours. Learning experiences include reading, discussion, lecture, exegesis, practice preaching, watching sermons, and self-critique.

Course Relationship to the Curriculum
Building on two prerequisites, NT 502 (Interpreting the New Testament) and PR 601 (Principles and Practices of Expository Preaching), this course helps students stand between the “worlds” of the text and the listeners. Using a nine-step method for sermon prep, it emphasizes an exegetical method focused on the preaching task. Students will use the method on multiple passages.

A Greek Competency Quiz is required of every Greek exegesis class. Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to take the class as a NT 600-level class (as NT/PR655). Others will be allowed to remain in the class but take it as PR 655. The quiz is prepared by the director of the GCTS Greek language program and will be given the first class hour. It may include translation, parsing, identification of syntactical functions, and other grammatical questions. The best way to review is to visit www.analytikon.org.

Course Objectives
Performance:

- Employ the nine-step method on passages from multiple genres.
- Prepare and present three short sermons.
  - Understand the passage’s main idea(s) and how the subordinate ideas relate.
  - Organize clearly and compellingly.
  - Apply to specific audiences.
  - Borrow some of the passage’s rhetorical dynamics.
- Adapt the nine-step method for your own use.
- Memorize a passage of Scripture related to biblical preaching.
Knowledge:
- Summarize the nine-step method.
- Critique the nine-step method.
- Understand the literary/rhetorical characteristics of at least three NT genres.
- Reflect on your own gifts and convictions regarding exegesis and preaching.

Attitude:
- Value expository preaching (and the rigorous work that it requires).
- Gain confidence in your ability to exegete and preach.
- Depend on the Lord, who uses his Word to transform hearts.

Course Textbooks
- In addition, students will read 400 pages of their choice from the bibliography in Sakai.

Assignments
- **Reading of textbooks.** Assign yourself a grade out of 100 pts. based on the quantity and quality of your reading. No grade can be higher than the percentage of pages read (quantity). Quality of reading should be judged on attention, comprehension, and retention.
- **Class preparation and participation.** Spend four hours each exegeting the six passages to be discussed in class.
- **Exegetical summaries (2):** Maximum of four pages each (not including end notes or sources consulted page), 12 pt. font, double spaced. Study each passage you will preach using the nine-step method. Choose two different genres. Spend no more than 7 hours on each paper. Summarize your findings from steps 1-5. Cite all sources consulted. Due as noted in schedule.
- **Sermon One:** 15 minutes maximum (note, this time limit may be adjusted depending on the number of people enrolled). Assume that your audience is your home church. Spend no more than 5 hours preparing this sermon (plus the 7 hours of study time). Limited notes permitted (one-half page).
- **Outline for Sermon One:** Two pages max. Due as noted in syllabus. Include:
- Exegetical idea (subject and complement).
- Big idea.
- Purpose of the sermon underneath (phrase this using Stanley’s method: what do you want the listeners to “think, feel, and do”).
- Introduction written out word for word.
- Conclusion written out word for word.
- Transitions between main points/moves written out word for word.
- Main points/moves written in complete sentence. Do not develop the outline past the second level (capital letters).
- Issues of relevance (something that needs to be explained, proved, or applied) marked with double asterisk.

- **Sermon Two**: 15 minutes maximum (note, this time limit may be adjusted depending on the number of people enrolled). Preach to your classmates. Spend no more than 5 hours preparing this sermon (plus the 7 hours of study time).

- **Outline for Sermon Two**: (non graded assignment). Rather than turning in an outline for a grade, you will receive “feedback” from your classmates. On the day noted in the syllabus, bring:
  - Exegetical idea (subject and complement).
  - Potential phrasing for big idea.
  - Skeletal outline. Main points/moves written in complete sentence. Do not develop the outline past the second level (capital letters).
  - Issues of relevance (something that needs to be explained, proved, or applied) marked with double asterisk.
  - Potential ideas for intro and conclusion.

- **Sermon discussion groups (2)**: (non-graded assignment).
  - Watch three of Andy Stanley’s sermons online and discuss the issues below. Meet with a small group from your class for discussion. Due as noted in syllabus.
    - Organization: Does Andy follow his own pattern of “I, We, God, You, We”? Can you identify when he transitions from one move to another? Comment on his transitions.
    - Big Idea: Does Andy follow his own advice to preach one idea? Can you state them from each sermon? What techniques does he use to hammer home the big idea(s)?
    - Exegesis: Are Andy’s sermons based on rigorous exegesis? Does he proclaim the authorial intention?
  - By the time of your second meeting, everyone in class will have preached the second sermon. Bring your video to the group and play a 5-10 minute portion. Critique yourself—what did you do well, and what did not go as you hoped? Then ask the group to give you more feedback. Encourage one another! Conclude by praying for each other, especially in your preaching and teaching ministries.

- **Sermon 3**: Write a manuscript sermon based on one of the passages studied in class. You will not preach this, but will simply hand in the manuscript.
- State exegetical idea (subject and complement) at the top of page 1.
- State big idea at the top of page 1.
- State purposes at the top of page 1 (think, feel, do).
- Write main points/moves in **bold**.
- Write transitions in *italics*.
- Place issues of relevance (something that needs to be explained, proved, or applied) marked with double asterisk.
- Send to Arthurs as a Word attachment by date in schedule.

- **Personal reflection paper** (non graded assignment, 1 page maximum, 12 pt. font, double spaced): Reflect on the blessing of your own sermon. As you prepare for your second sermon, reflect upon how the process has warmed your heart, enlightened your mind, and/or moved your will. How has God used your preparation to minister to you? Submit by the last class session. Failure to submit this paper will result in a 50 point deduction from the total points available for the course (there are 1,000 total possible points for the course).

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Report</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Estimated Time Invested (hrs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class prep and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>24 (4 hrs. on each passage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegetical Summary 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline for Sermon 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegetical Summary 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100-94 = A   93-90 = A-   89-87 = B+   86-84 = B   83-80 = B-   etc.

*No late work will be accepted. If you experience illness or emergency, speak to a professor.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lead Professor</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthurs, Ciampa</td>
<td>Ciampa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Feb. 3  | How to do exegesis for preaching: The Nine Step Method.              | Ciampa  | **Passages to be discussed:**
|         |                                                                      |         | Ephesians 1:3-14
|         |                                                                      |         | Luke 2:1-20                                                          |
| Feb. 10 | How to do exegesis for preaching: The Nine Step Method.              | Ciampa  | **Passages to be discussed:**
|         |                                                                      |         | James 4:13-17
|         | Moving from text to sermon.                                          | Arthurs | Revelation 20:1-6                                                    |
|         |                                                                      |         |                                                                      |
|         | **Reading Week**                                                     |         |                                                                      |
|         | Exegetical Summary #1 due to Ciampa by 4:00 p.m. Feb. 19             |         |                                                                      |
| Feb. 24 | Moving from text to sermon                                           | Arthurs | **Passage to be discussed:**
|         |                                                                      |         | Luke 10:25-37
|         |                                                                      |         | Matthew 28:16-20                                                    |
|         |                                                                      |         | **Reading due:** Stanley and Jones                                   |
| Mar. 3  |                                                                      | Ciampa  | **Sermon 1**                                                         |
|         |                                                                      | Arthurs | Outlines due for students preaching Nov. 2.
|         |                                                                      |         | **Reading due:** Bailey and Vander Broek.                            |
| Mar. 10 |                                                                      | Arthurs | **Sermon 1**                                                         |
|         |                                                                      | Ciampa  |                                                                      |
|         | **Reading Week**                                                     |         |                                                                      |
|         | Exegetical Summary #2 due to Ciampa by 4:00 p.m. March 19            |         |                                                                      |
| Mar. 24 | **Sermon Discussion Groups:** Watch three Andy Stanley sermons before this date. Meet with your group for discussion. |
| Mar. 31 | Genre-sensitive preaching.                                           | Arthurs | **Reading due:** Arthurs                                             |
| Ap. 14  | **Sermon 2**                                                         | Arthurs | Sermon 2                                                             |
| Ap. 21  | **Sermon 2**                                                         | Arthurs | Sermon 2                                                             |
|         |                                                                      | Ciampa  | **Reading due:** 400 pages.                                          |
Paper due: Reflection paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ap. 28</td>
<td><strong>Sermon discussion group.</strong> Meet with your group to critique your own sermons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td><strong>No class. Sermon 3 and all work due</strong> to Arthurs by 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- As a special “value-added” feature for those able to attend, the class will be invited to one of the professors’ homes for an informal time of questions and answers and open conversation.
Evaluation Sheet: Sermon 1
NT/PR 655, Arthurs and Ciampa

Name: ________________________________ Time: _____
Box: _____________ Grade: _____

Intro | Conclusion

Exegesis: Did the sermon say what the text says?

Relevance
  Adapted to the audience
  Application

Central Idea

Arrangement
  Clear/logical
  Transitions

Genre Sensitivity
  Does the sermon reflect the form of the text?

Delivery
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intro</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Exegesis: Did the sermon say what the text says?

Relevance
- Adapted to the audience
- Application

Central Idea

Arrangement
- Clear/logical
- Transitions

Genre Sensitivity
- Does the sermon reflect the form of the text?

Delivery