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 and students.

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 two books 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 PulpitTalk 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)
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)

Recommended:

V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at lectures and exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class. Late work will not be accepted.

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 via email to the professor which will then be distributed for the benefit of the entire class.

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 Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* Write a 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 hard copy in my campus box #237 or under my office door.

5. Read Willhite and Gibson, *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Write a 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 hard copy in my campus box #237 or under my office door.


7. Complete reading for Bounds and Piper.

8. Prepare an outline for the first sermon. The outline should fit on one page. 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) before the first sermon is preached. The revised and original outlines will be turned in by 2pm on the day that the student preaches his/her sermon. Once the sermon is preached, the correction of the outline for
a higher grade is no longer an option. Please turn in a hard copy of the outline(s) in my campus box #237 or under my office door. Please prepare the sermon for your church.

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 no longer than 1.5 - 2 pages single-spaced.

10. Watch and listen to five (5) sermons on DVD purchased from Gordon-Conwell’s web site. Students will critique the preachers and their sermons answering the questions in section IX of the syllabus. Complete thoroughly the questions for each sermon with specific details provided for each question. Please turn in a hard copy in my campus box or 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. The outline should be no longer than 2 pages single-spaced. Please prepare the sermon for your church.

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 corrected outlines are due the day you preach. The outline must conform to that which has been taught in class. The manuscript should be no longer than 3 pages single-spaced.

13. Listen to *PulpitTalk* 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 (including all sermons). If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be at class on time.
B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

See the calendar in the catalog. Late work will not 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>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Introduction to each other and the course</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson pp. 1-32.</td>
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<tr>
<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>Feb. 10</td>
<td>What’s the Big Idea?</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson pp. 33-46.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Essentials of an Effective Sermon</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Questions on pp. 47-50.</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson pp. 51-72.</td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong> Book Report – Gibson by 5pm today</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Follow up: Listen to <em>PulpitTalk</em> 4:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td><em>Reading Week – No Class Meeting</em></td>
<td>Work on DVD Sermon Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Do I Have Anything to Preach?</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> DVD Sermon Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Exegetical and Homiletical Idea</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson p. 73-175.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Shape of a Sermon</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Sunukjian p. 27-41; 142-191; 305-319.</td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong> Select two passages for your two preaching exercises at the end of the</td>
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<td>semester. The passage for the first sermon will be selected from a list provided by</td>
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<td>the professor. For the second sermon, <em>you may not preach on a passage for which you’ve</em></td>
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<td><em>written an exegesis paper or will be writing an exegesis paper. You must select a</em></td>
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<td><em>passage that’s new to you. The sermon should not have been preached before in any</em></td>
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<td><em>context. Please select a short unit of thought.</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Listen to <em>PulpitTalk</em> 4:3.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Read/Publication Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Making Dry Bones Live Filing Your Illustrations Getting Off to a Good Start</td>
<td>Read: Robinson p. 139-175. Due: Outline for the first sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>All’s Well that Ends Well Words on Target Dynamics of Sermon Delivery</td>
<td>Read: Robinson p. 175-245. Due: Book Report – Willhite and Gibson by 5pm today Listen to PulpitTalk 3:3, 1:2 &amp; 3:1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Reading Week – No Class Meeting</td>
<td>Due: Outline for Sermon 1 is due on Tues, March 18th at 4pm via email (no pdfs)</td>
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<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and manuscript</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and manuscript Due: Outline for Sermon 2 by 5pm today (printed copies only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and Manuscript Note: Please bring your laptop or USB thumb drive for sermon retrieval</td>
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<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and Manuscript Note: Please bring your laptop or USB thumb drive for sermon retrieval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and Manuscript Note: Please bring your laptop or USB thumb drive for sermon retrieval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Due: Report sheet on p. 10 of syllabus. Due: Report on filing system Due: Report – Stott Due: Send me your 10 best sermon illustrations via email (Word doc).</td>
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</table>

VIII. Your Sermon Will Be Graded on the Following:

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 Analysis Assignment

For the assignment: Write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific — give examples. Each sermon critique should be approximately 2 single-spaced pages for a total of 10 pages single-spaced.

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
PR601-HA Preaching: Principles and Practice in Preparing Relevant and Biblical Sermons
Spring 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 Gibson, Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon ___________________ (grade). 5%

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

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

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

Sermon DVD Analysis Exercise ___________________ (grade). 10%

8 minute sermon ___________________ (grade). 20%

15 minute sermon ___________________ (grade). 30%

Final Examination ___________________ (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade ___________________