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 recorded for playback and critique 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 75 new illustrations. (G) Watch and listen to 5 assigned sermons and determine what makes an effective sermon. (H) Read a book on the theology of preaching and a book on the importance of prayer in 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:

Scott M. Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008).

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)


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. During this course, please collect and file 75 illustrations. Students will send their 10 best illustrations to the professor in a Word document via email by **Tuesday, June 11th at 4pm** and he will later distribute them to the class.

3. Read Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*. Rather than reading 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 2 page single-spaced paper using the following questions: a. What is the central idea of the book? b. Why did Willhite and Gibson select the chapters from other authors to be included in the book? c. Discuss three things you learned from reading the book. **Due on Monday, June 10th at 4pm.**

5. 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 three things you learned from reading the book. c. How will you apply the concepts in this book to your preaching? **Due on Monday, June 10th at 4pm.**

6. Read Stott, *Between Two Worlds*. Please consider the following: a. What is the central idea of the book? b. What was new to you? c. With what do you disagree? Why? The assignment should be no more than 2 single-spaced pages. **Due on Monday, June 10th at 4pm.**

7. Complete reading for Bounds and Piper.

8. Select Scripture texts for Sermons 1 and 2. For Sermon 1, the text must be selected from the sheet provided by Dr. Kim. For Sermon 2, you may select any passage (i.e., a short unit of thought). If you select an OT passage, you must have already taken Hebrew and Interpreting the Old Testament. **Due on Wednesday, May 22nd at 4pm.**

9. Prepare an *outline* for the first sermon. The professor will correct the outline and return it to the student. Please send it via email attachment to mkim@gcts.edu. **Due on Friday, May 24th at 4pm.**

10. Prepare a *manuscript* for the first sermon. The manuscript is due on the day you preach. This will be an 8 minute message without using notes.

11. Prepare an *outline* for the second sermon. The professor will correct the outline and return it to the student. Please send it via email attachment to mkim@gcts.edu. **Due on Saturday, June 1st at 9pm.**

12. Prepare a manuscript for a complete sermon that both explains and applies the passage. This will be a 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.

13. Watch and listen to 5 sermons on DVD and answer the questions thoroughly in Section IX of the syllabus for each sermon. In this assignment, give a critique and
explain how you might improve it. Each sermon evaluation should require 2-3 single spaced pages. All other sermons will not be accepted. **Due on Tuesday, June 11th at 4pm.**

14. Listen to *Pulpit Talk* segments to reinforce understanding of course concepts.

15. Sit a **one hour maximum time limit** end of the course closed book and closed note book final examination.

16. 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 and Late Penalties

Refer to the due dates on pages 2-3 and also see the course calendar below. **Late work will not be accepted.**

C. Assistance

I will be available for office hours at the following times. Please sign up at my office if you would like to meet.

Fri, May 24 @ 9am-12pm; 1-4pm  
Tue, May 28 @ 9am-12pm; 1-4pm  
Mon, June 3 @ 1-4pm  
Tue, June 4 @ 1-4pm  
Wed, June 5 @ 1-4pm

**VII. Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 20 AM</td>
<td>Introductions (Course and Classmates) The Worlds of the Expositor What is Expository Preaching?</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson pp. 1-32.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Do I Have Anything to Preach? The Exegetical and Homiletical Idea The Shapes Sermons Take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Making Dry Bones Live The Sharp Edge of Filing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Words on Target Dynamics of Sermon Delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Eight Minute Sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Eight Minute Sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Fifteen Minute Sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Fifteen Minute Sermons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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Note: Please bring your laptop or USB thumb drive for sermon retrieval.
VIII. Your Sermon Will Be Graded on the Following:

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

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

IX. Questions to Consider When Evaluating Sermons for the DVD Exercise

For the assignment: Write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific — give examples for what is asked.

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.

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.
### Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
#### PR 601 Preaching: Principles and Practice in Preparing Relevant and Biblical Sermons
##### Summer I 2013
Kim

*(This sheet is due on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 4:00pm.)*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name ________________________________</th>
<th>Box __________</th>
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- **How many class sessions did you attend?** ___________ (check if) all, or ___________ (give number).
- **How many illustrations did you collect?** ___________ (give number). (grade). 5%

**Did you develop a file system? Please describe:**

- **Did you listen to *Pulpit Talk?*** ___________ (yes/no).
- **What grade would you give yourself for required reading?** ___________ (grade). 5%
  (Includes Quantity and Quality; Give a letter grade, e.g., A, A-, B+, etc.)
- **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%
- **Sermon DVDs Exercise** ___________ (grade). 10%
- **Eight minute sermon** ___________ (grade). 20%
- **Fifteen minute sermon** ___________ (grade). 30%
- **Final Examination** ___________ (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

**Course Grade** ___________