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 students and 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 30 new illustrations. (G) Watch 5 assigned sermons and determine what makes an effective sermon. (H) Read a 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)

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)
V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and class participation at lectures and exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class.

2. Develop a filing system for collecting supporting material for sermons. During this course, please collect and file 30 illustrations. Students will email their 10 best illustrations to the entire class by Friday, June 13th at 12pm.

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. Try to work on the exercises in the back of the book for your enrichment.

4. Read Willhite and Gibson, *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*; Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else's Sermon*; and Stott, *Between Two Worlds*. Choose one book to write a 2 page single-spaced paper answering the following questions: a. What is the central idea of the book and critique it? b. Discuss three things you learned from reading the book. c. How will you apply the concepts in this book to your preaching? As for the format, please write down each question and answer the question below that section. Due on Wednesday, June 11th at 12pm.

5. Read John Piper’s *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*.

6. Select Scripture texts for Sermons 1 and 2. For Sermon 1, the text must be selected from the sheet provided by the instructor. 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 21st at 4pm.

7. Prepare an outline for the first sermon. The professor will correct the outline and return it to the student. You will have one opportunity to improve your first outline grade (when you turn in corrections on the day you preach). Please send it via email in a Word document to mkim@gcts.edu. Due on Friday, May 23rd at 4pm.

8. 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.

9. 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, May 31st at 4pm.
10. 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.

11. Watch 5 sermons on DVD. Choose 2 out of 5 sermons and answer the questions thoroughly in Section VIII of the syllabus. Each sermon evaluation should be 2-3 single spaced pages. All other sermons will not be accepted. Due on Friday, June 13th at 12pm.

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


14. Students will memorize Romans 1:16.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required at every class including when you are not preaching. It will count toward your final grade. If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be at class on time.

B. Due Dates and Late Work

See specific assignments above and the course calendar below. Late work will not be accepted.

C. Assistance

Please email me if you would like to schedule a meeting.
### VII. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19 AM</td>
<td>Introductions (Course and Classmates)</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Preface and Ch. 1.</td>
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<td>The Character of Preaching</td>
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<td>What is Expository Preaching?</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 2; Exercise pp. 185-187.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Follow up:</strong> Listen to <em>Pulpit Talk</em> 4:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19 PM</td>
<td>What’s the Big Idea?</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 3-6. Exercises pp. 188-211.</td>
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<td>The Essentials of an Effective Sermon</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Sunukjian on outlining. Listen to <em>Pulpit Talk</em> 4:3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20 AM</td>
<td>Do I Have Anything to Preach?</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 7. Exercises pp. 211-213.</td>
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<td>The Exegetical and Homiletical Idea</td>
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<td>The Shapes Sermons Take (Outlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20 PM</td>
<td>Making Dry Bones Live (Illustrations)</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 8. Exercises pp. 213-221</td>
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<td>The Sharp Edge of Filing</td>
<td>**Listen to <em>Pulpit Talk</em> 3:3, 1:2 &amp; 3:1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21 AM</td>
<td>Getting Off to a Good Start (Introductions)</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 9-10; pp. 167-184. Exercises pp. 221-225.</td>
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<td>All’s Well That Ends Well (Conclusions)</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Select Scripture Texts for Sermons 1 and 2 by 4pm today</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline for Sermon 1 Friday, May 23rd at 4pm (email only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21 PM</td>
<td>Words on Target (Writing a Manuscript)</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Robinson Ch. 9-10; pp. 167-184. Exercises pp. 221-225.</td>
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<td>Dynamics of Sermon Delivery</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline for Sermon 1 Friday, May 23rd at 4pm (email only)</td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline and manuscript</td>
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<td>May 29 AM</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline and manuscript</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30 AM</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline and manuscript</td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong> Outline for Sermon 2 Saturday, May 31st at 4pm (email only)</td>
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<td>June 4 AM</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and manuscript</td>
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<td>June 5 AM</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outline and manuscript</td>
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| June 6 AM | Final Exam | Due: Book Report Wed. June 11th at 4pm (Printed copy under my office door)  
**Due:** DVD Analysis Fri. June 13th at 12pm (Printed copy under my office door)  
**Due:** 10 best illustrations (email to class) and final sheet of syllabus (p. 9) Fri. June 13th at 12pm (Printed copy under my office door) |

**VIII. Questions to Consider When Evaluating Sermons for the DVD Exercise**

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

2. Do you think that the sermon grew out of the biblical text? Or was it imposed on it? Analyze and comment.
3. 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.
4. How did he/she illustrate? — 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.
5. Do you think the conclusion drove home the main idea of the sermon in a way that caused you to want to respond? What were the applications? Analyze and comment.
6. What do you think that you as a listener might do, think or change as a result of hearing the sermon?
7. Do you think the delivery helped or hindered the presentation? What were its strengths? What about weaknesses? Analyze and comment.
IX. Grading

Your sermon will be grade 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? Does it offer solid application?

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?

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. Some students will have their sermons graded by an experienced local preacher.

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.

X. Format for Sermons

a. Please remember to place your name and box number 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.... And discuss how you would measure this purpose statement.

What follows is either your outline or manuscript. Remember to write your outline in full sentences. Put transitions in 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 2014
Kim

(This sheet is due on Friday, June 13, 2013 at 12:00pm.)

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How many class sessions did you attend?  ________________  (check if) all, or  ________________  (give number). (grade). 5%

How many illustrations did you collect?  ________________  (give number). (grade). 5%

Did you develop a file system? Please describe:

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.)

Book Report  ________________  (grade). 5%
Outline for Sermon 1  ________________  (grade). 10%
Sermon DVDs Exercise  ________________  (grade). 10%
8 minute sermon  ________________  (grade). 20%
15 minute sermon  ________________  (grade). 30%
Final Exam  ________________  (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade  ________________