GOAL OF THIS COURSE: As a result of taking this course, you should be able to analyze your audience so that you can preach effective messages that are both biblical and relevant. You should have completed courses in exegesis and hermeneutics so that you are able to accurately interpret the biblical text. The basic course in homiletics focuses on going from the Scripture to the sermon. This course focuses on reaching the audiences to whom we preach.

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES: You will be able to use imagination as an interpretive tool. This will be measured through creating and delivering a first-person narrative from a biblical text. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will deliver an effective introduction to your final sermon that gets attention, surfaces a need and orients the audience to a biblical passage. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will preach one life-related sermon without the use of notes. Present it in twenty (20) minutes or less.

You will develop a keener awareness of illustrative material by collecting and filing at least sixty (60) new illustrations. The illustrations may be on any subject but they must have been acquired during the weeks the class is in session. *(You will report on this and provide your ten (10) best illustrations for other members of the class on Friday, December 5th.)*

OUTSIDE READING:

A. Read *It’s All In How You Tell It* and simply report that you have read the book. Due on Wednesday, September 24th.

B. Read *Biblical Sermons* ed. by Haddon Robinson. Then read *Preaching that Connects* by Mark Galli and Craig Larson. Write a single report on both of these books. In the report do two things:
   a. Based on what you know of homiletics, which of the sermons in *Biblical Sermons* did you consider the strongest and which the weakest. Why?
b. Take four principles discussed in *Preaching that Connects* and illustrate them at work in sermons from *Biblical Sermons*. Limit your response to four (4) pages. **This report will be due on Wednesday, October 22nd.**

C. Read *Invitation to Biblical Preaching* by Donald Sunukjian. Imagine that Christianity Today has asked you to write a book review on *Invitation to Biblical Preaching*. You have only 300 words to talk about strengths and weaknesses of the book. Be concise! Summarize and critique the book, restate and analyze. Give the book the type of review you think it deserves. Your book review is **due on Friday, November 7th**.

D. Listen to CD of sermons. Use the discussion questions for your analysis. Limit each response to a page or less. **Due on final day of classes, Friday, December 5th.**

E. Purchase back issues of “Pulpit Talk” with a subscription for the coming year. You can purchase “Pulpit Talk” through the Center for Preaching, lower level, Academic Building.

**FINAL SERMON:** Your final sermon will start with a problem faced by someone in a congregation. In your introduction you will express that problem as someone might express it in conversation. In your sermon you will speak to that person’s problem from a biblical text. Deliver the message with enthusiasm and directness. Use eye contact and gestures. The sermon will be preached without notes (except, of course, for quotes and statistics).

**GRADING:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peter’s Pentecostal Sermon</td>
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<td>First Person Narrative</td>
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<td>Introduction to Sermon</td>
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<td>Final Sermon (including outline and manuscript)</td>
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<td>Report on Outside Readings</td>
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<td><em>It’s All in How You Tell It</em></td>
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<td>CD Listening Exercise</td>
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<td>Sixty (60) Illustrations</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept. 10</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Introductions</td>
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<td>Friday, Sept. 12</td>
<td>&quot;The Commitment of an Expository Preacher&quot;</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept. 17</td>
<td>&quot;A Look at One of History's Greatest Sermons&quot;</td>
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<td>Friday, Sept. 19</td>
<td>&quot;Who is My Audience?&quot; &quot;Does it Matter?&quot;</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept. 24</td>
<td>&quot;The Path from a Text to a Sermon&quot;</td>
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<td>Friday, Sept. 26</td>
<td>&quot;Tell me a story of Jesus&quot; (Batten)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 1</td>
<td>First-Person Narratives</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 3</td>
<td>First-Person Narratives continued</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 8</td>
<td>First-Person Narratives continued</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 10</td>
<td>&quot;Imagination: A Forgotten Tool in Interpretation &amp; Communication&quot;</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 15</td>
<td>NO CLASS—READING WEEK</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 17</td>
<td>NO CLASS—READING WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 22</td>
<td>“Show and Don’t Tell” (Batten)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 29</td>
<td>Introductions to Life-Oriented Sermons</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 31</td>
<td>Introductions continued</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 5</td>
<td>Introductions continued</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 7</td>
<td>&quot;Report from the Trenches&quot;</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 14</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 19</td>
<td>“Speaking for the Ear”</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 21</td>
<td>Final Sermons</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 26</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 28</td>
<td>NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Dec. 3</td>
<td>Final Sermons</td>
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<td>Friday, Dec. 5</td>
<td>Final Sermons</td>
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**THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS CLASS**
Questions to Consider When Listening to or Reading a Sermon

For the CD listening assignment: Please 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.
PETER’S PENTECOSTAL SERMON

ACTS 2:14-42

This assignment should take from four to five hours to complete so plan to set aside a good block of time to devote to this study.

I. Read the passage over at least six (6) times using different versions or translations.

II. Setting the Scene:
A. What can you discover about the audience Peter addressed in the context?

B. What events or circumstances caused Peter to preach his sermon?

III. Peter’s Sermon:
A. Evaluate Peter’s introduction (14, 15)
   1. Peter relates to his audience very quickly. Can you pick out at least two ways he gets and holds their attention?
      a.
      b.

2. Peter’s mood in this introduction could be described as (choose best one)
   (a) Condemnatory, threatening
   (b) Humorous, enthusiastic
   (c) Defensive, cautious
   (d) Warm, benevolent

3. The mood of the audience could be described as (choose best one)
   (a) Festive
   (b) Receptive
   (c) Indifferent
   (d) Curious

B. Evaluate the Joel question (16-21).
1. What immediate purpose did Peter have for his audience in referring to Joel 2:28-32? (choose best one)
   (a) To show the disciples were not drunk
   (b) To lend Scripture support to his message
   (c) To explain the events at Pentecost as the fulfillment of OT prophecy
   (d) To secure the attention of his audience.

Now, defend your choice.

2. Why did Peter quote Joel 2:30, 31 (Acts 2:19,20)? Are these really necessary to his argument? Be sure you understand what Peter meant by “The Day of the Lord” before you answer.

3. In using the term “saved,” to what kind of salvation is Peter referring? (choose best one).
   (a) Salvation from eternal death unto eternal life?
   (b) Salvation from God’s judgment in “The Day of the Lord”?
   (c) Both?
   (d) Neither?

Defend your answer.

C. Evaluate the body of Peter’s sermon. (22-35)
   1. Peter ties the quotation from Joel into his message in Acts 2:22. What question raised in the minds of his listeners by the Joel quote does he answer in this verse?

“To Jews the crucifixion of Jesus was a formidable obstacle in the way of believing Him to be their appointed Messiah: how could the Messiah, on whom the blessing of God rested in a unique degree, have died the death on which the curse of God was expressly pronounced? It was written plainly in the law: “a hanged man is accursed by God” (Deut. 21:23). That Jesus came under the description “a hanged man” was undeniable. The apostles from the earliest days of their preaching met this objection head-on…”

With this quote in mind, specify two proofs Peter uses in 2:22 to show that Jesus was a righteous man despite having been hung on a cross.

a. 

b. 

3. Peter now introduces the resurrection of Jesus. He appeals to Psalm 16:8-11 to demonstrate that Jesus had to be raised. What is the point of his explanation in verses 29-31? (choose best one)

   (a) Jesus’ body didn’t undergo decay but was raised from the grave in accordance with the Scripture
   (b) David’s tomb, located in Jerusalem “to this day” proved Jesus’ Resurrection
   (c) David’s body saw corruption. Therefore, the Psalm couldn’t refer to him but had to refer to Jesus.
   (d) Jesus’ resurrection was prophesied years ago in Psalm 16 by David.

4. To what other proof for the resurrection did Peter appeal?
5. What has Peter proved about the person of Jesus because of the resurrection? (vs. 31) cf. question #9 below.

6. In verses 33-35 Peter gives additional support concerning Christ. What two lines of proof does he use to show that Jesus ascended?
   (a)
   (b)

7. The point of Peter’s use of Psalm 110 is (choose best one)
   (a) To show that the Psalm could not be spoken of David, but about Jesus
   (b) To show that God will exalt the Davidic ruler
   (c) To show that David knew the Messiah would rule at God’s right hand
   (d) To show that David did not ascend into heaven

8. Who would qualify as the “enemies” mentioned in the Psalm quote (vs. 35)?

9. What has Peter proved about the person of Jesus because of the Ascension? (vs. 34) cf. question #5.

D. Evaluate the climax of the message (2:36, 37).
   1. Why did Peter use “therefore” at the beginning of verse 36?
   2. In saying “this Jesus whom you crucified,” to whom was Peter referring to by the “you”?

How would you support your answer from this passage? (2:14-40)
3. Luke describes the emotional and verbal response of the crowd to Peter’s message in vs. 37. Why did they respond as they did? (Your answer here is crucial to your understanding)

4. Now go back and review the sermon thus far, trying to get an overall picture of Peter’s message and the way he presents his case to the crowd.
   a. State the unifying idea of the passage (what Peter is talking about, and what he is saying about what he is talking about.)
   b. Show either in outline form or in statement form how Peter supports his idea, in other words, the argument of the sermon.

E. Evaluate the conclusion of Peter’s message (2:38-40)
   1. In their response to Peter, the audience under conviction asked “What shall we do?” Peter’s reply to their question involved the concept of repentance. If you had a sentence in which to explain “repent” to a ten year old, how would you do it?
   2. Peter offers them the gift of the Holy Spirit. What specifically has Peter mentioned in his sermon that would lead him to refer to the Spirit at this point?

F. Evaluating the sermon as a whole.
   1. What different kinds of proof does Peter use predominantly in his sermon? (choose best two)
      (a) Empirical proof (of observation, experience)
      (b) Dialectical proof (of reasoning)
      (c) Experimental proof (of evidence)
      (d) Scriptural proof (of the Bible)
2. What forms of address does Peter use with his audience?

a. __________________________________________________

b. __________________________________________________

c. __________________________________________________

Do you see any significance to the order in which Peter used these titles?

3. Name at least two other ways in which Peter related to his audience.

4. What motives and emotions does Peter use to move his audience? (choose one pair)

   (a) Joy and sorrow
   (b) Fear and hope
   (c) Pain and pleasure
   (d) Security and insecurity
   (e) Amusement and gravity

5. In finishing this assignment, spend some time thinking about the mind of Peter in preaching this sermon. Ask yourself the following questions.

   a. What factors did the apostle struggle with in putting this message together.

   b. Obviously Peter did not sit in a study, do exegesis on a passage, prepare an outline and manuscript, and practice before he delivered his message. How do you imagine he was prepared to preach such a powerful message?
c. Could he have preached this message to the Greeks in Athens? Why or why not?

d. Now in a paragraph give your analysis of Peter’s effectiveness as a preacher in this sermon and how you could apply this to your own preaching ability.