Syllabus: PR602

PR602: Preaching for Modern Listeners with Dr. Jeff Arthurs

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Snapshot of Course Requirements
PR602 requires timely completion of the following course requirements (note that each of these requirements have set due dates, provided to you with your course registration confirmation):

1. Required Reading and Reading Report/Course Checkout (10% of your grade; to be completed after you have finished all of the course requirements above)
2. Two Reflection Papers
3. Sermon Analysis
4. Three Oral Presentations plus the development of one outline (for Sermon #1)
5. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)

Course Description
As a result of this course, the student should be able to analyze and adapt to audiences by preparing messages that are both biblical and relevant. Students will speak multiple times, be recorded on video, and receive feedback from the professor and members of the audience. They will also analyze sermons, reflect on their own experience, and read.

Course Relationship to the Curriculum
Building on PR 601 and exegesis courses, this course helps students interpret Scripture for particular listeners. The focus is on audience analysis, adaptation, and application.

Course Objectives
Performance
  - Analyze audiences.
  - Prepare and deliver biblical messages that are both biblical and relevant.

Knowledge
  - Review Robinson's ten stages of sermon preparation.
  - Comprehend how to analyze, adapt to, and apply truth to

Attitude
  - Value expository preaching.
  - Gain confidence in your ability to bridge the gap between the text and a modern audience.
Explain how to become a Christian to a particular audience.

Preach expository sermons which address specific issues.

- Form accurate exegetical ideas.
- Outline clearly.
- Become more skilled at speaking for the ear, esp. in using purposeful redundancy.
- Employ variety by experimenting with various sermon forms.
- Critique five recorded sermons.

Course Textbooks

Turn in your Reading Report/Course Checkout (see left menu), specifying how many pages of each textbook you have read. Due within 6 months of start date.

- Reading Packet available on Sakai.

Assignments

The following describes the required assignments for this course. For detailed instructions and guidance completing each assignment, see the corresponding module (left menu) for instructions and details for each assignment.

Reading

Due within 6 months of enrollment. The assignment is self-graded. Assign yourself a grade out of 100 points based on how much you read and how well you read. No grade may be higher than the percentage of pages read. Reading “well” is judged on your attention and comprehension. Inform the professor by email (jarthurs@gcts.edu) when you have completed this.

Reflection Papers

Both papers are one page maximum (12 pt. font, double-spaced). Place these in Dropbox. This is a non-graded assignment.

- “The Ministry of a Recent Sermon” (Paper #1): Due within 3 months of enrollment.
- “The Blessings of Your Own Sermon” (Paper #2): Due within 3 months of enrollment.

Sermon Analysis

Watch and analyze five sermons which you will locate on the internet. Under Modules → Assignments, you will find a brief video of Dr. Arthurs explaining this assignment and some links to sermons/ministry websites for your review. Another helpful way to locate sermons to watch is through iTunes Podcasts and/or resources on iTunesU. Students are free to select any sermons available online for the recommended preachers.

When you are ready to begin this assignment analyze these sermons in an email dialogue with your teaching fellow, as per your interactivity requirement (see below). You are to watch 5 sermons. Due by the end of course.

Oral Presentations (including sermon outline)

Deliver a total of 3 oral presentations:

1. **Explain How to Become a Christian**: Due within 6 months after enrolling.
2. **Outline for Sermon #1**: Due within 3 months after enrolling. Schedule the preaching of this sermon so that your professor has time to grade and return the outline before you preach. Give the professor at least two weeks.
3. **Sermon #1**: Due within 4 months after you enroll (Note: Outline for this sermon is due within 3 months after enrolling, see above)
4. **Sermon #2**: Due within 6 months after enrolling.

### Summary of Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Graded Reading</td>
<td>Same as course due date</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper #1: The Ministry of a Recent Sermon</td>
<td>Due within 3 months of course start date</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper #2: The Blessing of Your Own Sermon</td>
<td>Same as course due date</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>Same as course due date</td>
<td>Interactivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain How to Become a Christian</td>
<td>Same as course due date</td>
<td>Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline for Sermon #1</td>
<td>Due within 3 months of course start date</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon #1</td>
<td>Due within 4 months of course start date</td>
<td>Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon #2</td>
<td>Due within 6 months of course start date</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactivity Requirements</td>
<td>Must be completed 1 month after course due date.</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Submitting Assignments

Assignments must be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click "Add" and upload from there.

All assignments, including video files, must be submitted electronically through the Drop Box feature in Sakai.

Some guidelines for this process:

- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Video files may be uploaded, but please ensure you use a proper format and reasonable file size.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.
- Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.

Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

### Grading

#### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assignment Grade/Point Percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Report (Self Graded Reading)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Criteria for Grading Oral Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The “C: Presentation”</th>
<th>The “B” Presentation</th>
<th>The “A” Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Idea</td>
<td>Present.</td>
<td>... plus accurate, reinforced through repetition, restatement, and illustration.</td>
<td>... plus intriguing, memorable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Conforms to requirements, accurate exegesis (if appropriate).</td>
<td>... plus shows depth of research and audience analysis; interesting.</td>
<td>... plus keen insight; rivets involuntary attention; includes moving exhortation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Intro and conclusion present; transitions present; drives home one central idea.</td>
<td>... plus transitions are crystal clear through use of repetition and restatement; main moves are logically linked; no “rabbit trails.”</td>
<td>... plus arrangement (whether inductive or deductive) is psychologically effective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Clear.</td>
<td>... plus appropriate to material and context.</td>
<td>... plus vivid and articulate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery</td>
<td>Does not distract</td>
<td>... plus reinforces verbal content.</td>
<td>... plus displays genuine passion and naturalness.</td>
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Interactivity

As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum**: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.

2. **Sermon Analysis (email-based conversation)** with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.