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.

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 and the importance of
prayer in preaching. (l) 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. (N) Understand the importance of Christian maturity and character in the life of the preacher.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:


DVD for sermon evaluations: PR 601 Sample Sermons—can be purchased and downloaded from gordonconwellstore.org or watched online. See approved list.

PR601 Pulpit Talk set: Purchase PR601 set or full set from gordonconwellstore.org

Recommended:


V. Course Requirements

1. Attendance at lectures and exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS!

2. Develop a filing system for collecting supporting material for sermons. The system can be on 3x5 cards, 4x6 cards, Evernote, 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 email their ten best illustrations to 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 Willhite and Gibson, *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Write a one page (maximum, 12 pt. font, typed, single-spaced, using 1 inch margins) 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 and how you’ll apply it to your preaching. Bring a paper copy to class (include your box number).

5. Read Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon*? Write a one page (maximum, 12 pt. font, typed, single-spaced, using 1 inch margins) 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 and how you’ll apply it to your preaching. Bring a paper copy to class (include your box number).

6. Read Stott, *Between Two Worlds*. Write a one page (maximum, 12 pt. font, typed, single-spaced, using 1 inch margins) 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 and how you’ll apply it to your preaching. Bring a paper copy to class (include your box number).

7. Complete reading for Piper and Bounds.

*Note: Both the eight (8) and fifteen (15) minute sermons should be brand new sermons which you have not preached before in any context. Prepare both sermons for a local church context.*

8. Prepare an *outline* for the first sermon. 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) and the original and revised outlines will be turned in on the day you preach. Once the sermon is preached, the correction of the outline for a higher grade is no longer an option.

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 about 1.5 pages single-spaced.

10. Watch and listen to five (5) sermons online (see approved list in syllabus on page 9) or on the DVD purchased from Gordon-Conwell’s web site. Please refer to the list of questions in this syllabus — section IX. Complete thoroughly the questions for two sermons. Please bring a paper copy to class (include your box number).

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. You will have one opportunity to resubmit the outline for a second evaluation by the professor. The second outline is not graded but should be completed for your benefit.
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 outline (both original and corrected) are due the day you preach. The manuscript should be about 3 pages single-spaced.

13. Listen to *Pulpit Talk* 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. If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be at class on time.

B. Due Dates

See the course calendar.

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>Sep. 12</td>
<td>Introductions: Course and Classmates</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Preface and Ch. 1.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Character of Preaching</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What is Expository Preaching and Its Value?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 19</td>
<td>What’s the Big Idea?</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 2.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Selecting the Passage for Preaching</td>
<td>Follow up: Listen to Pulpit Talk 4:2.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Studying the Passage for Preaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 26</td>
<td>Discovering the Exegetical Idea</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 3-6 &amp; Sunukjian Ch. 7-10.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Analyzing the Exegetical Idea</td>
<td>Due: Select Passages for Sermons 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determining the Homiletical Idea</td>
<td>Listen to Pulpit Talk 4:3.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Essentials of an Effective Sermon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shapes Sermons Take (Outlining)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>The Function of Illustrations Introductions and Conclusions</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 7-8. Listen to Pulpit Talk 3:3, 1:2 &amp; 3:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Reading Week—No Class</td>
<td>Work on class reading, exegesis and outline for 8 minute sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>The Making of a Manuscript Dynamics of Sermon Delivery</td>
<td>Read: Robinson Ch. 9-10&lt;br&gt;Due: Sermon DVD Exercise <em>(2 Sermons)</em>&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)&lt;br&gt;Due: Outline for Sermon 1 today by NOON&lt;br&gt;(email Word document only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Reading Week—No Class</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>8 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)&lt;br&gt;Due: Outline for Sermon 2 today by NOON&lt;br&gt;(email Word document only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>15 Minute Sermons</td>
<td>Due: Outlines and manuscript&lt;br&gt;(bring paper copy to class)</td>
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</table>
Dec. 12 | Final Exam | Due: (3) One page book reports on Willhite and Gibson; Stott; and Gibson (bring paper copy to class) 
Due: 10 Best Illustrations (email to class) 
Due: Final sheet of syllabus (p. 11) (bring paper copy to class)

VIII. Your Sermon Will Be Graded on the Following:

NOTE: There will be a 30-second grace period for sermons. After those 30 seconds, there will be a 1/3 letter grade penalty for every 30 seconds over the time limit.

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 Exercise

For the assignment: Write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific—give examples for what is asked. For both sermons, your responses to these seven questions should be approximately 2-3 single spaced pages.

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.

Introduction

I. Move Idea.

   A. Refer to the text.
   B. Illustrate.
   C. Provide contra.
   D. Repeat move idea.

(Transition to the next move.)

As for manuscripts, follow the model of the outline by indenting your paragraphs to help you to see the flow of the sermon.
XII. Approved Online Sermons for DVD Analysis

1. Haddon Robinson “Preaching into the Wind”
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToAIWQNedMA

2. Tony Evans
   Go to YouTube and search for Tony Evans. You may view: “Tony Evans at Gateway Church,”
   “Ambassador Speakers” (Sermon starts at 6:29) and “Jubilee Church” in London.

3. Patricia Batten, “What Your Mother Really Thinks of You”
   www.patbatten.com

4. Matthew D. Kim, “Contagious Community”
   http://www.grace.org/sermon/contagious-community/

5. Scott M. Gibson, “It All Depends”
   https://vimeo.com/91436484
PR601 Sermon 1 Preaching Passages (You may also select from this list for Sermon 2)

Matthew 6:16-18
Matthew 7:13-14
Matthew 19:13-15
Mark 3:31-35
Mark 9:33-37
Mark 12:13-17
Mark 13:32-37
Luke 6:43-45
Luke 6:46-49
Luke 8:16-18
John 3:16-21
John 4:39-42
John 8:42-47
John 14:1-4
John 20:19-23
Acts 2:42-47
Acts 7:54-60
Acts 15:36-41
Acts 28:11-16
Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 1:4-9
Galatians 5:22-23
Ephesians 6:1-4
Philippians 2:12-13
Philippians 4:2-3
Colossians 4:2-6
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
1 Timothy 6:17-19
Titus 1:1-3
Philemon 4-7
Hebrews 2:1-4
Hebrews 13:1-3
Hebrews 13:7-8
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
PR 601-HA Preaching: Principles and Practice in Preparing Relevant and Biblical Sermons
Fall 2016
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%

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DO NOT FILL IN BELOW

Report on Willhite and Gibson, Big Idea ___________________ (grade). 5%
Report on Stott, Between Two Worlds ___________________ (grade). 5%
Report on Gibson, Should We Use Someone… ___________________ (grade). 5%
Outline for the first sermon ___________________ (grade). 5%
8 minute sermon ___________________ (grade). 20%
Sermon DVD Exercise ___________________ (grade). 10%
15 minute sermon ___________________ (grade). 30%
Final Examination ___________________ (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade ___________________