I. Course Description

The Preacher and the Message is the unique mentoring component of the Master of Theology in Preaching program. Students will meet with the preaching faculty and occasional guests to discuss what it means for the preacher to interact with his or her congregation, people, spouse, and ministry priorities. The class will meet at the Gibson’s home for a meal and a presentation and discussion.

PR 926A and PR 926B together constitute one course. Students who register for PR 926A must take PR 926B in the spring in order to receive any credit for the course. This course is limited to Th.M. students only.

II. Course Relation to the Curriculum

The Preacher and the Message is one of the two required courses of the Master of Theology in Preaching degree. The course serves as the mentoring component for all Master of Theology in Preaching students.

III. Course Goal and Objectives

Goal: Develop a cohort mentoring experience for Master of Theology in Preaching students as they explore aspects of what it means to be a preacher and what it means to preach as one develops a theology of preaching.

Objectives: As a result of this course students should: (1) Articulate a basic concept of what it means to be a preacher. (2) List the characteristics of our current culture and what impact these characteristics have upon preaching. (3) Verbalize how a preacher deals with others in terms of hospitality and manners. (4) Articulate current trends in preaching and to analyze these trends critically. (5) Define and understand preaching and plagiarism. (6) Articulate and apply the seven lessons for new pastors. (7) State why preaching is conducted for the purpose of maturing others in the faith. (8) Demonstrate the importance of excellence in the preparation of and reading of Scripture in public. (9) Articulate a theology of preaching.
IV. Course Textbooks

Required:


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at all sessions.

2. Write a five to eight (5-8) page single-spaced paper on your theology of preaching. The student will provide a biblical and practical statement of your theology of preaching. Due on 1 May 2017 at the last class meeting of the spring semester.

3. Read Gibson, Preaching Points: 55 Tips for Improving Your Pulpit Ministry and report what you have learned from reading this book in a discussion that will take
place on the first evening of class, 12 September 2016.

4. Read Leeman, *reverberation* and Gibson, *Preaching with a Plan: Sermon Strategies for Growing Mature Believers*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading these two books. Based on what you have read in the books and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *reverberation* and *Preaching with a Plan: Sermon Strategies for Growing Mature Believers* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. 17 October 2016. We will discuss *reverberation* and its contents along with Gibson, *Preaching with a Plan: Sermon Strategies for Growing Mature Believers* on 17 October.

5. Read Corey, *Love Kindness: Discover the Power a Forgotten Christian Virtue* and report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Love Kindness: Discover the Power a Forgotten Christian Virtue* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 14 November 2016.

6. Read Gibson, *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and report on what you learned from reading the books. Comment on at least four issues discussed in *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and write how you might apply them to your preaching and understanding of preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 5 December 2016.

7. Read Arthurs, *Devote Yourselves to the Public Reading*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Devote Yourselves to the Public Reading* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 6 February 2017.

8. Read Hulst, *A Little Handbook for Preachers: Ten Practical Ways to a Better Sermon on Sunday*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *A Little Handbook for Preachers: Ten Practical Ways to a Better Sermon on Sunday* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 6 March 2017.

9. Read Kallas, *Preaching in an Age of Distraction*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in Kallas, *Preaching in an Age of Distraction* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 3 April 2017.

10. Read Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* and report
on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) single-spaced pages. Due 1 May 2017.


12. Other readings may be assigned.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy
   Attendance is required for the class. Please make every effort to be on time for class.

B. Due Dates and Late Penalties
   Late work will not be accepted.

C. Assistance.
   Please come to see me with your questions. I have a sign-up sheet located outside my office.

VII. Course Outline
   (Topics are subject to change.)

12 September The Preacher and Preaching
17 October Preaching and Maturing Believers
14 November The Preacher and People
5 December Our Shifting Culture
6 February Preaching and the Word
6 March Upgrading One’s Preaching
3 April The Distractions of Preaching
1 May A Perspective on Preaching—Keller
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary — Hamilton
PR 926A/B: The Preacher and the Message
Syllabus: Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
Dr. Scott M. Gibson (Fall) and Dr. Jeffrey D. Arthurs (Spring)

How many class sessions did you attend? ________________ (check if) all
I read Gibson (Preaching Points) ________________ (yes/no)
Report on Leeman/Gibson (Plan): ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Corey: ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Gibson (Shifting Culture): ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Arthurs: ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Hulst: ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Kallas: ________________ (grade). 10%
Report on Keller: ________________ (grade). 10%
I read Gibson (Making a Difference in Preaching) ________________ (yes/no)
Theology of Preaching Paper ________________ (grade). 30%
What grade would you give yourself for class participation?

_______________________
(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade ________________