PREACHING FROM THE GOSPELS
DM 878
Syllabus
Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.
Summer 2016
RTS Charlotte

[Please note: This is the “mini-syllabus.” The “mega-syllabus” with class-lecture notes, annotated bibliographies, etc. will eventually be available to be downloaded from “Canvas.” The “mega-syllabus” will be needed for the first day of class.]

Dates:
* Classes are July 18-22, 2016, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am to noon.
* Some readings will be due by July 18 so that we may discuss them in class.
* The remainder of readings and the paper are due by October 30, 2016.

Course Description:
This course will include an overview of the content and theological emphases of each Gospel, various hermeneutical issues related to interpreting and preaching the Gospels, and strategies for preaching through a Gospel.

*Trinity Psalter*
Each morning and afternoon class-periods will begin by singing from the *Trinity Psalter*. Please bring your own copy.

Reading Requirements:
* With each reading, excepting the Bible reading, provide a two-page summary of the usefulness (or lack of it) of aspects of the book for you. Send all summaries (in one convenient document) to Mrs. Tari Williamson (twilliamson@rts.edu).

Due by July 18:


  * Not have you read them in your lifetime!, but have you read them specifically since you decided to take this course?


  * Perkins is a famous, early Puritan (1558-1602). Only read *The Art of Prophesying* portion of book, pp. vii-78. (“Prophesying” is Perkins’ term for preaching.) Cara assumes that students have read many modern books on
preaching, and it may aid us to get a historical perspective from Perkins. Be prepared to discuss (“pros and cons”) in class.


  * Poythress has been a prof at Westminster Theological Seminary for many years and is retiring in May 2016. This book concentrates on applying the “meaning” of Christ’s miracles for today. The first third of the book gives his theology/meaning/application of miracles relative to all the Gospels. The second third applies his method to the specific miracles in Matthew.

  * Due by October 30, 2016.


  * Schreiner is a conservative Reformed Baptist who teaches at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Only read chapters: “Introduction,” 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, and “Appendix: Reflections on New Testament Theology.”

* Geerhardus Vos. The Teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church. Original 1903. Available from multiple publishers.

  * Vos was a famous prof at Princeton Seminary and “father” of the Reformed redemptive-historical movement.


  * Blomberg is a well-known evangelical in biblical studies and a prof at Denver Seminary. Best book on parables.

* Any commentary on any one of the Gospels.

  * Choose any commentary—technical or “popular.” This needs to be a commentary that one has not read before considering this course.
Paper Requirements:

* Twenty-to-thirty page academic-paper on any aspect of the Gospels that approximates a section of a DMin project. That is, it may be historically, exegetically, or hermeneutically oriented.


* Send paper to Mrs. Tari Williamson (twilliamson@rts.edu).

Grading:

* 10% for class participation (including singing!).

* 40% for readings and two-page summaries.

* 50% for academic paper.
## Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Preaching from the Gospels (DMin)  
**Professor:** Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.  
**Campus:** RTS Charlotte  
**Date:** Summer 2016

### DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

*In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.*

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<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</strong></th>
<th>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Much of the course lectures and readings relate to original meaning of Gospels.</th>
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| **Historical/Contemporary Practices:** | Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry. | Strong | Historical: Perkins and Vos books.  
Contemporary: Emphasis on modern meaning of Gospels. |
| **Integration:** | Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting. | Moderate | Academic Paper may relate to this.  
Hermeneutics of preaching. |
| **Sanctification:** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification. | Minimal | Psalter Singing.  
Any exegesis of Bible leads to some level of sanctification. |