Syllabus
PREACHING LAB II (04PT524)
Fall 2013

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide actual preaching opportunities for each student in order to continue to develop each student’s exegetical and preaching skills. Students will be required to prepare and preach 2 expository sermons (one an evangelistic sermon and the other a funeral homily) using both OT and NT texts and will read aloud Bible passages assigned by the professor.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Preaching, Communication I, Communication II, Preaching Lab I

Meeting Dates

Our class meets on the RTS Atlanta campus three times: October 25-26; November 8-9; November 22-23. Friday classes: 6.30-8.30pm. Saturday classes: 8.30am-4.00pm

Course objectives

1. To improve the student’s preparation and preaching skills through preparing and presenting two preached messages, one evangelistic and one for a funeral.
2. To strengthen the use of original languages in sermon preparation.
3. To demonstrate how the Bible’s message is relevant to this generation.
4. To practice preaching the gospel in an evangelistic sermon.
5. To present an order of service including a funeral message as though in an actual funeral service.
6. To demonstrate good public English Bible reading skills.
7. To understand and demonstrate the baptism of an infant and an adult.
8. To demonstrate improved pulpit presence and delivery.

Required texts:

Holmes, Robert Leslie, Seven Bridges to More Powerful Preaching. Unpublished manuscript of upcoming Crossway book (will be gifted to students by professor at first class)
In addition, there will be certain selected articles from current publications that the professor deems helpful to students. These will be distributed in class.

**Assignments**

1. Class attendance and participation is very important. Absences that are unexcused or excessive will negatively impact the student’s final grade.

2. Each student will preach two sermons before the class. A sermon outline plus a complete manuscript will be delivered to the professor in advance. These shall follow the methodology laid out in the course. While an in-depth exegesis of the original languages is not required, nonetheless the student can aid his final grade by demonstrating that he has seriously studied key words in the text in their original setting. The first sermon will be an evangelistic sermon on a passage chosen by the student. The second will be a funeral order of service including a preached message for a well-known personality outside the world of theology (i.e., no theologians, preachers, cult figures, etc.). It may be someone dead or alive from the worlds of politics, business, entertainment, sports, etc. The purpose of this presentation is to allow the student to show that he knows how to use Scripture effectively and do whatever research would be necessary to conduct a funeral service for someone he does not know personally.

3. Students will critique the in-class preaching of their fellow students (negatively and positively) using a form provided by the professor. The purpose of this exercise is to help students to think homiletically.

4. Students will read assigned passages of Scripture before the class to demonstrate that they understand the importance of presenting God’s word audibly and effectively with sincerity, inflection, enunciation, pronunciation, and effectiveness.

5. Using a baby doll, students will perform an infant baptism. Students who do not practice paedobaptism may demonstrate a baptism that shows their understanding of their usual mode of baptism.

6. There will be a written book review for each of the assigned books (Martin and Smith). Each book review should be 2-3 pages in length.

**Grades:**

1. Written/preached Sermons 50% total
2. Class assigned Bible readings 15% total
3. Book reviews 15% total
4. Class sermon reviews 10% total
5. Attendance/class participation/ 10% total

**Extension Policy**
All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Preaching Lab II (PT 524)  
**Professor:** Robert Leslie Holmes  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** Fall 2013

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>A working knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture and developing skills to research further into Scripture’s original meaning so as to be able to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces an ethos of preaching that is winsomely Reformed, including an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, and a a God-honoring manner toward non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in every relationship.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the Gospel to both the heart and mind of both believers and unbelievers with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual growth; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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