Syllabus

Introduction to Preaching (04PT506)
Fall 2014
Robert Leslie Holmes, D.Min., Ph.D., LL.D.

Course Description

Welcome to Introduction to Preaching! This course is an introduction to preaching that lays a foundation for the necessity of preaching for the church. It lays out a theology and history of preaching as a basis for understanding the role of preaching within God's redemptive program and explores some hermeneutical issues related to preaching from both the Old Testament and New Testament. There is also an emphasis on the principles and process of sermon preparation.

Meeting Dates

Our class meets on the RTS Atlanta campus three times: September 19-20; October 10-11; October 24-25 Friday classes: 6.30-8.30pm. Saturday classes: 8.30am-4.00pm

Course Objectives

1. To assist students to grow in their love for and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to desire to preach more effectively for His glory.
2. To lay a foundation for understanding the history and theology of preaching.
3. To introduce the hermeneutics of preaching and its significance for understanding the task of preaching.
4. To develop the importance of the preparation of the preacher in preaching.
5. To develop a methodology of sermon preparation by working step by step through the construction of a sermon.

Course outline:
First weekend:
Introductions
Orientation to the course
A brief history of preaching
Preaching as a part of public worship according to our Reformed understanding Communication counts
The basics of sermon planning, preparation and delivery Prayer in preparation for preaching

Second weekend:
Language of the sermon
The Biblical roots of excellent preaching
Can I preach the Bible with confidence?
Preaching to Post-moderns
Preaching to Millennials
First sermons by students
Introduction to Preaching

Third weekend:
Second sermons by students
Watch your words.
Holy God! Holy preacher! The preacher’s spiritual life; The preacher’s family life!
The preacher’s Private and Public life
Final examination discussion

Textbooks
2) Robert Leslie Holmes, *When Good Enough Just Isn’t Good Enough* (Greenville: Ambassador-International, 2005) Do not buy. This book will be gifted to students by Professor.


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. There is a take-home Final Exam based on the lectures and readings

2. There is a “mini-speech” assignment for the first class, which shall be given at that class. The purpose of this assignment is to give students with no previous experience of public speaking an exposure to that art and craft.

3. There is a weekly sermon review due for classes 2 and 3.

4. There will be two written sermons (outline plus a complete manuscript required in advance) delivered by each student. These shall follow the methodology laid out in the course. The first will be on a passage chosen by the student. The second will be on a passage assigned by the professor.

5. There will be a written book review for each of the assigned books (Chapell and Holmes). Each book review should be 3-4 pages in length.

Grades:

1. Written/preached Sermons – 40% of total
2. Final Exam – 20% of total
3. Sermon reviews – 15% of total
4. Book reviews – 15% of total
5. Punctuality/Attendance/class participation – 10% of 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)
# Intro to Preaching Syllabus

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>Introduction to Preaching (PT 506)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor:</td>
<td>Robert Leslie Holmes, D.Min., Ph.D., LL.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus:</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
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### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv 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 MDiv outcomes.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Strong</td>
<td>a brief initial speech and two written/preached sermons are required; a theological basis and the hermeneutics of preaching are covered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Moderate</td>
<td>the importance of Scripture’s original meaning as a modern application in preaching is emphasized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Minimal</td>
<td>the theology and hermeneutics of preaching touches on a few issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>discussions of application of the text deals with sanctification issues</td>
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<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</th>
<th>Strong</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Embraces an ethos of preaching that is winsomely Reformed, including an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, and a God-honoring manner toward non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in every relationship.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preach</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>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</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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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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Additional courses that contribute to the MDiv outcomes include:

- Articulation
- Scripture
- Reformed Theology
- Sanctification
- Desire for Worldview
- Winsomely Reformed
- Preach
- Worship
- Shepherd
- Church/World