Communication I: God-Centered Preaching & The God-Centered Preacher
Syllabus - Winter, 2015

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jon D. Payne
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Course Instructor

The Rev. Dr. Jon D. Payne is the organizing pastor of Christ Church Presbyterian (PCA), Charleston, South Carolina. Until recently, Rev. Payne served for ten years as the senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Douglasville, Georgia (2003-2013). Rev. Payne is a graduate of Clemson University (B.A. '93), Reformed Theological Seminary (M.A.T.S '98 / D.Min '04), and the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), New College (M.Th. '02). He is a visiting lecturer in practical theology at Reformed Theological Seminary (Atlanta/Charlotte), series editor of and contributor to the new Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament (Tolle Lege, 2012—), and author/editor of several books including John Owen and the Lord’s Supper (Banner of Truth, 2004), In the Splendor of Holiness: Rediscovering the Beauty of Reformed Worship for the 21st Century (Tolle Lege, 2008; translated into Spanish, Burmese, and Chinese), and A Faith Worth Teaching: The Heidelberg Catechism's Enduring Heritage (Reformation Heritage Books, 2013). Rev. Payne also contributes to Modern Reformation, Table Talk, and other theological journals and magazines. You may contact Dr. Payne at jdpchristchurch@icloud.com.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students cultivate a Biblical / Reformed understanding of the preaching of the Word of God.

Course Goals

1. Foster confidence in the Word of God to save, sanctify and comfort God’s elect.
2. Understand the relationship between preaching and worship (Liturgy).
3. Consider the profound benefits of lectio continua preaching.
4. Introduce the rich history of Biblical preaching throughout the ages.
5. Learn the biblical qualifications for the calling and preparation of the preacher.

General Course Outline

1. Introduction to Course: An Overview Of What Biblical Preaching Is ... and Is Not.
3. Preaching & the Reformed Confessions
4. Seminar One: Essay & Book Reviews, discussion, etc.
5. How Shall We Then Preach? A Brief Look at Different Styles of Preaching With a Specific Focus Upon Systematic Expository Preaching (Lectio Continua).
6. The History of Lectio Continua Preaching
7. Seminar Two: Essay & Book Reviews, discussion, etc.
8. Preaching As Worship: Exploring the themes of covenant renewal and the relationship between preaching and the various elements of a Reformed liturgy.
9. Seminar Three: Essay & book reviews, discussion, etc.
10. The Call of the Preacher: Understanding the internal and external call.
11. The Preparation of the Preacher, Part I: Biblical qualifications, theological education, personal piety, etc.
12. The Preparation of the Sermon
13. Seminar Four: Essay & book reviews, discussion, etc.
14. Review / Final Lecture / Exam

**Required Reading**

1. Dennis Johnson, *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (P&R, 2007)

**Essay Topics**

1. Preaching as a Means of Grace
2. A Modern Preaching Crisis & an Ancient Solution
3. The Foolishness of Preaching
4. Lectio Continua Preaching & the Protestant Reformation
5. *It Shall Not Return Void*: The Sufficiency and Efficacy of Faithful Preaching

**Grading Scale**

Essay: 50%
Seminars: 10%
Final Exam: 25%
Required Reading: 15%

**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:** Communication 1  
**Professor:** Jon D. Payne  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** 10-21-14

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<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)**   | 6. Strong  | 15. Each student will participate in an oral seminar, discussing key texts on preaching.  
| **Scripture**                       | 7. Moderate| 16. Each student will write an essay focusing upon important theological, historical, and cultural aspects of preaching.  
| **Reformed Theology**               | 8. Minimal| 6. Discuss biblical foundation of preaching as a means of grace.  
| **Sanctification**                  | 9. None    | 7. Discuss history of lectio continua preaching from early church to the present.  
| **Desire for Worldview**            |            | 1. Learn how preaching is a means of growth and maturity in Christ.  

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.
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<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
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<td>Winsomely</td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Discuss the importance of love and humility in preaching and teaching the Bible.</td>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Discuss Lloyd-Jones’ idea that preaching should be logic on fire (mind and heart).</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>Strong</td>
<td>1. Will explore the place of preaching within a Reformed liturgy.</td>
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<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Discuss how preaching integrates with shepherding care of the flock.</td>
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<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Discuss preaching in relation to cultural and global issues.</td>
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