Course Description

A public speaking course designed to prepare Christian workers to communicate biblical truth in a variety of ministry settings. The course will explore communication strategies for public communication in a variety of contexts such as to children, youth, women, ethnic, cross-cultural, and inter-denominational audiences. The course offers an alternative for students not necessarily called to a pastoral preaching ministry.

Objectives

- To equip every RTS student to communicate the biblical message orally in a group setting.
- To develop skills in how to address particular audiences appropriately.
- To develop skills in the organization and oral presentation of biblical truth to a particular audience.
- To discover techniques for receiving and assessing communication feedback (both for biblical accuracy as well as for communication effectiveness).
- To inspire Christian workers, in accord with their ministry calling, to communicate the Gospel accurately and clearly to groups.

Approach

The course will roughly parallel the preaching courses but adapting a broad view of preaching as the public communication of the Word of God in a variety of group settings (and distinct from but not excluding ordained preaching in a worship service). Whether or not the student’s calling requires frequent public speaking, teaching, or preaching, the purpose of the course is to equip each student to be effective in making group presentations of biblical content. The second semester (MCOM 2) will focus more on enhancing the particular communication styles required in the student’s specific calling.

The course will study communication theory through class lectures, reading assignments, and research assignments. The skills will be developed through practice, feedback, evaluation, critique and more practice. Individual communication skills will be enhanced through class interaction; therefore, attendance in class and labs is critical. Even when a student is part of a lab “audience,” his participation is never passive because as he helps the speaker improve his skills, the listener is indirectly improving his own.
MCOM1 Assignments

This course is about the development of skills more than about abstract knowledge. The goal of the assignments is to help the student become more effective at communicating the message of God to groups, in accord with his or her own calling, giftedness, and (divinely ordained) circumstances. Therefore, the assignments have to do primarily with listening, observing, reflecting, doing, and doing some more. Some reading (600 pages) is required. There are no term papers or tests, per se. Evaluation will be necessarily subjective and based upon performance. The following is a list of major assignments. There will be occasional daily assignments as required by the flow of the learning process.

Reading: Approximately 600 pages including texts\(^1\) 10%
(But not counting reading in preparation for speeches)

Class activities and participation (throughout course)

- Outline assignments 5%
- General participation 5%

8/28/13 Reflection on 5 speakers 5% (To be explained in first class)
9/4/13 7-minute speech on “calling” 5% (General principles and critique)
9/11/13 Wilkinson book review 5%
9/18/13 3-Minute “sermon” 5%
9/25//13 5-Minute “sermon” 5%
Chappell book review (general) 5% (Major text—show major principles)
10/16/13 Book review of Hoff 5% (Focus on what most helps you)
10/16--30/13 First 15-Minute “presentation” 10%
11/6-13/13 Second 15-Minute “presentation” 15%
11/20/13 “Virtual Lab” evaluations\(^2\) 10% (Real life, out of class talks)
11/27/13 Exam 10% (Subjective evaluation/assessment)

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\(^1\) Report on exam
\(^2\) In-class presentation, if time permits.
Bibliography


* The 3 books marked with an * are required reading. The others are strongly recommended for help with particular aspects of understanding the Bible and communicating its message accurately to others.