Final course syllabus will be available by the start of the semester. It will not be materially different from this preliminary syllabus. A course schedule with reading assignments will be included in the final syllabus.

**Instructor:** Associate Professor Michael Glodo

**Office hours:** Mondays by 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-noon, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-noon
Thursdays 8:00-10:00 a.m.

*During my published office hours I will be in or near my office or else available in one of the public campus spaces. If the latter, there will be note on my door indicating where I am or Joyce will know.*

**Contact information:**
Professor Glodo: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)366-9493, ext. 232
Admin. Asst. Joyce Sisler: jsisler@rts.edu, (407)366-9493, ext. 219
Teaching assistant: Andrew Morton (amorton@rts.edu)

**Communication:** I prefer communicating in person, but email is fine, too. If we are Facebook “friends,” please don’t use it to message me about class matters.

**Class meeting:** Thursdays 1:00-3:00 p.m., August 25-December 1 (except for fall reading week on October 13).


Preaching Lab I (2PT510) is a 1 hour credit course.

**Important deadlines:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1 (next week)</td>
<td>Learnings Reflection, Part I due First sermon text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Learnings Reflection, Part II due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course objectives.**

**Knowing:**

- Gain additional knowledge of sound sermon practices through preaching and listening to others.
• Begin to gain insight into one’s own strengths and areas of needed improvement in preaching.
• To understand the nature and the basic kinds of public prayer.

**Being:**

• To receive the means of grace in the Word as preached by classmates.
• Heightened gratitude for God’s gift of the preached word to the church and for the privilege of being Christ’s ambassador.
• Deepened humility about one’s own need for growth in preaching and God’s grace that is necessary for that growth.
• Increased commitment to biblical principles of preaching.

**Doing:**

• Experience in sermon composition and delivery.
• Experience in leading public worship.

**Course requirements.**

- Preach two (2) expository sermons 60% (30% each)
- Leading in prayer 10
- Learnings reflections 20
- Class attendance & participation 10

**Required reading.**

The following are to be read and applied to the assignment for leading in prayer.


**Expository sermons.**

Each student will preach two expository sermons in class. These should be new sermons prepared specifically for class (though if you have opportunity to preach them outside of class during the semester that would be highly encouraged). The first sermon will be on a scripture text of your choosing and the second on an assigned scripture text. You are to turn in your choice of text for the first sermon at start of the second week of class.
Sermons will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Expository – this does not mean verse by verse commentary, but that the sermon faithfully expounds the authorial intent of a single scripture passage in its contexts (2 Tim. 2.15).
- Application – since Scripture was inspired by God for the purpose of transforming his people throughout all ages (Rom. 15.4; 2 Tim. 3.16), the sermon must contain application relevant to the contemporary audience which is reflective of the meaning of the scripture text.
- Redemptive – since the person and work of Christ is the hermeneutical key to Scripture and the decisive point of redemptive history (Luke 24; Gal. 4.4-5), exposition and application must point to, draw from and depend upon His person and work. This may be done in numerous ways within a sermon, taking into account the preaching occasion (context, audience, pastoral purpose etc.) as well as the specific Scripture text. For example, it may be done throughout the sermon; at the beginning with what follows being the implication; near the end to provide ultimate resolution and a number other ways. The primary basis to determine your redemptive angle (similar to “Christ focus”) will be determined by your scripture text.
- Clarity – structure, choice of words and phrases, appropriate and compelling of language, clarity of sermon points or movements, ability to be followed by listeners, elocution, etc. should be clear. Clarity is enhanced greatly with recapitulation and transitional statements.
- Delivery – voice, gestures, eye contact, absence of distracting elements.

Each student is to read his scripture text, either preceded or followed by a prayer for illumination, before beginning his sermon. I.e., the reading of scripture should be a distinct element of worship, not buried inside the sermon after the introduction or later.

Illustrations.

While illustrations are not listed above, good illustrations can be great aids to the listener. The best illustrations are ones which further expound the meaning of the text. Illustrations should not drive the exposition, be distracting, cause the listener to stumble, overshadow the exposition of the Scripture text or be emotionally manipulative. Good illustrations are often vivid in life detail, but without extraneous detail which would attract more attention to the story than the point being made. Above all, they should actually illustrate the point being made and should be fashioned to ensure it. It is especially important to formulate a clear tie-in statement to the point being illustrated. Writing out such statements help ensure that you as well as your hearers know what the point is. Each student is allowed one movie or sports illustration for the semester. Students who use no movie or sports illustrations in either sermon will receive a special bonus from me at the end of the semester. You will receive a double bonus if you use an illustration from a work of classical literature.

Visual aids such as film clips or PowerPoint slides are not permitted in this course. The proclamation of the Gospel (kerygma) should be distinguished from teaching (didache) both of which should be utterly distinguished from entertainment or from prioritizing form over substance. While there is a continuum between kerygma and didache and while good proclamation contains some teaching and vice versa, the preacher should always keep in mind he is God’s herald proclaiming the Good News. We must try to remember that it is the
medium – the foolishness of the preached Word – which keeps us from voiding the power of God (1 Cor. 1:17-18).

Dress.

You should dress appropriately when you preach. A tie is required. A jacket or suit is recommended. Bear in mind that your sermon video may be of some use in your future candidating.

Intended audience.

The question of intended audience comes up. A preaching lab is somewhat artificial by nature. Nevertheless, each of us (professor and students) is a sinner in need of the grace of God which comes especially through the preached Word (WSC 89, 90). Preach not as to a classroom, but to an assembly of believers needing God’s grace. If you wish to make additional particular assumptions about audience (e.g. a youth group, a church of a certain size and makeup) that is perfectly fine and up to you.

After each sermon, I will lead the class in a discussion of the strengths and areas of possible improvement of the sermon. You will also receive written feedback from each classmate and me. Attached is a sample feedback form that your fellow students and I will use.

Video recording of sermons.

Each in-class sermon will be video recorded and made available for you to download. If you have any difficulties, let me know immediately. If your computer resources preclude you from downloading and storing your sermon video, please let me know and we can make alternative arrangements.

You must view your video prior to our meeting for your assessment (see below).

Assessment.

Following each sermon you will meet with me individually for approximately 15 minutes (or longer if you wish and time allows). You must watch your sermon video prior to our meeting. It is up to you to schedule a time for us to meet. We must meet within ten days of the day you preach. After ten day, and for every additional week beyond that, the sermon grade will be reduced by one full letter grade.

Leading in prayer.

The ministry of public prayer is rapidly declining in North American worship (this might be so in other contexts, but this is the one with which I am most familiar). The decline is reflected in

1) the absence of purpose for particular prayers and their functions within public worship;
2) the decreasing proportion of time spent in prayer in public worship;
3) the abandonment of public prayer by ministers of the Word and the handing over of that role to musicians and others without adequate understanding or training in the ministry of the Word and
4) increased interest in fixed liturgies

Many RTS-Orlando students have not experienced practiced, sound ministries of public prayer before or during seminary. This absence of examples further perpetuates the decline without conscious efforts to the contrary.

Each student will participate in leading in prayer in Chapel at least once during the semester. You will be assigned a date on which to lead and the particular kind of prayer you are to lead. I will give you guidance on whether your prayer should be a collect or extemporaneous. Bear in mind that “extemporaneous” has nothing to do with a lack of preparation. Matthew Henry has said to every believer, “...it is as much your business in all such exercises to pray a prayer together, as it is to hear a sermon...” Likewise, it is as much the business of a minister to prepare and lead God’s people in prayer as it is his business to prepare a sermon.

You are to read the relevant chapter(s) in Hughes Old’s Leading in Prayer as well as Ligon Duncan’s summary of Samuel Miller’s Thoughts on Public Prayer (published as an appendix in Matthew Henry’s Method for Prayer, Reformed Academic Press edition) as part of your preparation. You will be assessed on the content as well as your actual leading.

**Learnings reflection.**

This requirement is to be completed in two steps. At the start of the second week of class you are to submit the survey included with this syllabus. Full credit for this portion of the requirements will not be given without this survey submitted on a timely basis.

By the term paper deadline you will submit a follow up paper of a minimum of 3 pages single-spaced containing the following:

- ways in which you have grown in your preaching during semester;
- the most helpful thing(s) you learned through this class (from colleagues as well as me);
- your assessment of your delivery skills from having watched your own sermon videos;
- areas were you feel you have the most continued need for growth;
- any remaining significant issues about preaching on which you feel you still need greater understanding
- Conclude with a summary of your own sense of your readiness and/or progress toward preaching as a Minister of the Word.

This paper should be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment in MS Word or Rich Text Format. The file name should be the class name, assignment name and your last name. E.g. “PL1-Reflection-Yourlastname.” If you want to receive acknowledgement of your submission, please set up your e-mail for a delivery receipt. Due to the volume of assignments submitted each semester, I cannot acknowledge each one individually.
All papers will be assessed on clarity, correctness and form as well as upon content. This means using good grammar, complete sentences, correcting spelling errors, using proper format for references, etc. Care in expressing oneself is a highly reliable guide to carefulness in thought.

Class attendance & participation.

Pastors readily reflect that some of the most important lessons learned in seminary were learned from classmates. Preaching labs rely heavily upon the range of impressions received by classmates and shared during feedback. Further, seeing more faces in the room is an encouragement in preaching well. You will receive the blessing of feedback from classmates; therefore it is incumbent on you to return that blessing by being present to hear them preach – especially in the weeks before fall break and end of semester. Therefore, a portion of the final grade will be allotted to attendance and participation in the listening and feedback processes.
Comm Lab IIB – Student Survey

To be completed and turned in by the second week of class.

Name .................................................................

I have preached in an actual church worship service approximately ___ times.

Up to this point in time, I have taught or spoken publicly (counting all opportunities) (check one)

☑ quite a bit        ☐ several times        ☐ a limited number of times.

At this point in time, Lord willing,

☐ I have a strong sense of call to a preaching/teaching ministry.

☐ I expect to preach and teach as a supplemental aspect of what I expect I will be doing after I graduate.

☐ I will use my time in seminary to discern better what role public ministry may have in my future.

I believe the most important marks of good preaching are .................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................

For me individually, the hardest part of preaching is .................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................

Some goals I would like to attain in my preaching this semester are .................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
Preaching Lab I - Fall 2011

One or two subjects I would like us to discuss some time in class this semester is...