Preaching Lab II/Section A (2PT524)

Course Syllabus
Reformed Theological Seminary—Orlando

Spring 2014
Preaching Lab II (2PT524)
Course Syllabus – Spring 2014

Instructor: Rev. Mike Francis

Office hours: Tuesdays 5:00—6:00 p.m. Other times by appointment.

Contact information: sicnarfekim@gmail.com
(386) 747-3517

Communication: I prefer communicating in person, but email is fine, too.

Class meeting: Tuesdays 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Course web page: Will be available through Self Service.

Course Description

This course is intended to further equip the student for Gospel-radiant pastoral ministry through reflection upon, and exercises relevant to, the public ministry of God’s Word. This course will be a preaching lab; thus the student will prepare and preach at least 2 full-length expository sermons, ministering God’s Word to his classmates and the instructor. This course will be a preaching lab, meaning that its goal will be to provide a learning environment in which students will enjoy the freedom to be creative, exploratory, and make a lot of mistakes as they seek to (i) refine the various skills involved in preaching, and (ii) identify the unique voice the Lord Jesus Christ has assigned to them in the company of His heralds. We will work hard and well together.

Course Objectives

Knowing

• To understand the biblical and theological principles of homiletics
• To understand basic sermon components and their functions
• To understand the fundamentals of sermon preparation and delivery
• To understand the priority and practice of Christ-centered preaching
• To understand the specific challenges of preaching in the present culture

Being

• Increased confidence in preparing and delivering Christ-centered expository sermons
• Deepening commitment to and experience of Christ-centered life and ministry
• Clear conviction of the power and importance of Christ-centered preaching
• Increased sensitivity to cultural issues as they relate to the task of preaching
Doing

- Increased competence in public speaking in general and sermon delivery in particular.
- Increased ability to construct and deliver biblically sound, culturally relevant Christ-centered sermons.

Course Requirements

A. **Preaching Assignments.** Each student will preach at least two Christ-exalting, Christ-exulting expository sermons of approximately 25 minutes in length. Depending on the final class size, additional opportunities for oral exercises (e.g. funeral or wedding homilies) may be available to the students.

   1. The first sermon will be topical/thematic, proclaiming the glories of one of the so-called “Five Points of Calvinism.” Students will be given the opportunity on the first day of class to select which petal of the TULIP they prefer (depending on our numbers, there may be some duplicates). It is expected that this sermon will not be a theological lecture, but a heralding of the beauty of Jesus Christ and the triumph of His Cross. The sermon must be rooted in a primary text and that text must be approved in advance by the instructor. **It is strongly recommended that the student read through J.I. Packer’s introduction to John Owen’s Death of Death in the Death of Christ for insight in connection with this assignment.** The student will submit a full manuscript to the instructor on the day he preaches.

   2. The second sermon will be from a text of particular relevance to the minister of God’s Word, selected by the student from a list provided by instructor on the first day of class.

   3. Each sermon will be evaluated by the class and instructor with constructive encouragement and critique. Each student will be required to grade himself as well.

B. **Criteria for Sermon Evaluation.**

1. The sermon will be an expository sermon.

2. The sermon will begin with an introduction that creates interest, identifies a need and leads into the text and topic.

3. The sermon will contain a main idea, thought or proposition that can be clearly stated in a single sentence. (This must be identified in the manuscript).

4. The sermon must contain a clear outline that includes main points expressed in complete sentence statements.

5. Each main point must be clearly demonstrated as derived from the text and must be clearly developed in the exposition.

6. The exposition must display thoughtful study of the Scripture that is faithful to the
text.

7. The illustrations must be well chosen and appropriate.

8. The application must be biblical, clear, culturally relevant, and Christ-centered.

9. The conclusion of the sermon must be crafted to bring the sermon to a purposeful ending.

10. The sermon delivery must demonstrate good delivery values and skills, such as dependence on the Holy Spirit, heartfelt passion, and the ability to engage with the listeners in a meaningful way.

C. Required Reading

1. J.I. Packer’s Introduction to John Owen’s The Death of Death in the Death of Christ.

2. Saving Eutychus, by Gary Millar & Phil Campbell.

3. Various articles to be assembled by the instructor and available in late January on the course website.

D. Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} sermon</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} sermon</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assignments</td>
<td>20% (if none, sermons will each be 40% of grade)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Communication

Besides in person and by telephone, students are encouraged to communicate with me via e-mail at sicnarfekim@gmail.com. Course announcements and updates will be made through e-mail. Any students without regular e-mail access must notify me of this limitation. I usually respond to e-mail promptly, however weekly and special events may lengthen the time of response occasionally. \textbf{It is very important that you keep your e-mail current in the RTS system.}

Class Attendance & Conduct

Unless providentially hindered, students are expected to attend class and participate fully in class interaction. Wireless internet access is not to be used for purposes outside the scope of the course while in class except for urgent (professional or personal) matters.

Course Schedule & Materials

A course schedule will be distributed on the first day of class.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** 2PT524A  
**Professor:** Rev. Mike Francis  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Spring 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skills to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</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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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</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>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind 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 maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<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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