Course Syllabus:

Instructor: Rev. Kevin R. Collins, D.Min
E-mail address: kcollins@rts.edu
Phone Number: W: (407) 278-8824   C: (407) 760-2424
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00

Course description:

This preaching lab will focus on developing the practical skills and values needed for effective, faithful, biblical preaching. Each student will preach an expository sermon and receive feedback to encourage and to critique his skills. The course requirements will build upon the knowledge and skills developed in previous classes.

Course objectives:

• Knowing
  o Increased understanding of the biblical and theological principles of homiletics
  o Increased understanding of the basic sermon components and their functions
  o Increased understanding of the fundamentals of sermon preparation and delivery

• Being
  o Increased confidence in the calling of God to preach His Word
  o Deepening commitment to proclaiming the truth of God’s inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word
  o Increased humility and dependence upon the Spirit’s presence and power in preaching
• Doing
  o Increased confidence in preparing expository sermons
  o Increased competence in preaching expository sermons
  o Increased ability to construct and deliver biblically sound and exegetically faithful sermons.

Course Assignments:

Each student will write 1 full sermon manuscript for an expository sermon to be preached during the class. The sermon text will be assigned by the Professor. Your sermon is to be recently written and never preached in a class or church. You will be graded on both your written manuscript and your preaching.

The manuscript must be complete and exhaustive. All illustrations, applications, Scripture references, transitions and explanations, must be typed out in full, as they would be spoken. The main points must be clearly identified by bold print. Please use a header with the sermon title and footers with your name and page number.

The sermon must reflect all of the following ten criteria. Each student will be required to preach the sermon in the class and will be critiqued by the class and the professor. Students may be required to rework their sermon and to present it again in whole or in part. The sermon manuscript will conform to these ten sermon criteria:

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.) Each main point must be developed, illustrated and applied. 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.

**Critical Interactions and Discussions:**

After preaching each time in class you will receive critical feedback from the instructor and your fellow students. You will then receive direction from the instructor to help you formulate a strategy for improving a selected portion of the sermon or preaching component. You will also be required to interact critically, but constructively with each student’s preaching.

**Additional Assignments:**

- Submit via email the form “Personal Preaching Evaluation” by **September 2nd**
- Submit via email a 2-4 interactive summary of the book “Expositional Preaching” by David Helm by **September 16th**.
- Submit via email a 2-4 page Post-Course Personal Preaching Evaluation that takes into consideration the feedback you received from the instructor and classmates and includes how you will work on the areas of weakness by **December 9th**.
As part of the class you may be required to listen to, critique and discuss sermons from outside preachers.

**Course Grading:**

**RTS Grading Scale:** 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

**Class Attendance & Late Assignments Policy:** All missed classes and late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family) contact me immediately.

- Class Attendance and Participation 20%
- Sermon Manuscript 30%
- Various Exercises (written & oral) 30%
- Interactive Summary of “Expositional Preaching” by David Helm 10%
- Personal Preaching Evaluations (Pre-course & Post-course) 10%

Total 100%
Pre-Course Personal Preaching Evaluation

To be completed and emailed to instructor by Tuesday September 2nd

Name:______________________________________________________________

Email:________________________________________________________________

While at RTS where are you attending church?__________________________

Describe your involvement in this church?______________________________

Describe your personal devotional habits:
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Describe your family devotional habits (If applicable):
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
I have preached in a church worship service approximately _______times.

Other than preaching, I have taught or spoken publicly:

__________less than 5x   _________5-10x   _________more than 10x

Describe these public speaking opportunities:

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

At this point in time, Lord willing,

_____ I have a strong sense of God’s call to a preaching ministry.

_____I expect to preach as a secondary responsibility, but not the primary.

_____I am still discerning what type of ministry God is calling me.
I believe the most important characteristics of faithful preaching are:

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At this point, the aspects of preaching where I am the most comfortable are:

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At this point, the aspects of preaching where I am the least comfortable are:

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One or two topics that I want us to discuss in class are:

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

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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>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
<td>Students much preach one full-length sermon based on Scripture with relevant application to the modern world</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill 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>
<td>Student sermons must base the authority on the grammatical-historical meaning of the Scripture texts chosen. The sermon body must demonstrate that the sermon is legitimately grounded upon that meaning.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Reformed distinctive in the scripture texts must be addressed and any potential issues must be adequately explained.</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>Moderate</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>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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>Strong</strong></td>
</tr>
<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>Strong</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>Moderate</td>
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