1. **Course Details**
   - One credit hour
   - Tuesdays from 1:00–2:55pm
   - Course Description: *A practicum-style course focused on gaining experience delivering expository sermons.*

2. **Instructor Information**
   - Gregory R. Lanier, Assistant Professor, RTS-Orlando
   - Email: glanier@rts.edu
   - Office: Main administrative building
   - Office Hours: Email to set up appointment

3. **Objectives**
   - To gain greater understanding of and experience in delivering expository sermons from the Old and New Testaments
   - To grow in one's confidence and self-awareness in preaching
   - To increase in desire to preach Christ-honoring sermons to God's people
   - To gain experience and competence in developing and preaching expository sermons

4. **Required Texts**
   - Each student will select (at least) one book from a list to be provided on the first day of class, from which at least 200 pages must be read during the course of the semester.
   - Students may propose a different book, which must be approved by the instructor.

5. **Course Assignments**
   - **Expository Sermons**
     - **Assignment**
       - Each student will be required to preach two 30-minute expository sermons during class time on their assigned days. One sermon will be from a passage in the OT, and one from a passage in the NT.
       - The schedule and set texts will be prepared in the first week of class.
       - Sermons should reflect qualities that will be discussed more fully on the first day of class, including *Delivery, Exposition, Unity, Structure & Components, Legitimately Christ-Centered, and Application.*
       - Students will preach the introduction to their sermon the week before their assigned day for the full sermon. The class will engage in a brief discussion to provide the preacher with constructive feedback to take into account for
the full sermon the following week (e.g., Did it elicit interest? Was the proposition clear? Was the scripture reading effective?).

- Students must provide the instructor via Canvas an electronic of the full manuscript of the sermon by noon the day before it is to be preached.
- Upon delivering both sermons, each student must (a) pray and (b) read the assigned text before beginning the sermon itself. Both sequences (pray-read-preach or read-pray-preach) are permissible. Keep introductory remarks about the text minimally sufficient.
- Each full sermon will be recorded, and a copy will be provided to the student within a week. Students must watch the recording (along with their spouse, if applicable) and incorporate insights from the viewing in the reflection paper (see below).

  - **Evaluation**
    - Each sermon will be graded along the lines of the qualities mentioned above (to be clarified on the first day of class).
    - Failure to submit the manuscript on time will result in a letter grade reduction for that sermon.
    - The introduction will not be graded separately from the main sermon.

• **Participation and Feedback**
  - **Assignment**
    - Each student is required to participate respectfully in open discussion after each sermon to provide constructive feedback to the preacher. The quality of any given preaching lab is directly correlated with the quality of the interaction among the students. Each student is asked to be thoughtful, encouraging, but also helpful in providing useful feedback on things that the preacher did well and things that could be improved. Part of growing as a preacher is both receiving honest feedback and giving it.
    - Each student will also be required to fill in a one-page sermon evaluation form for each sermon (to be provided on each class day).
    - If a student is unable to attend lab, he/she must email the instructor.
  - **Evaluation**
    - Grades will be assessed based on the general level of engagement each student shows during discussion times, both giving and receiving feedback.
    - Persistent lack of participation, shallow feedback, unfair feedback, or defensiveness/argumentativeness will result in a lower grade.
    - Failure to turn in a sermon evaluation form for each sermon (unless you have an excused absence) will result in a half-letter grade reduction.
    - Each unexcused absence will result in a half-letter grade reduction.

• **Reflection Paper**
  - **Assignment**
    - Write a 1,800–2,000 word paper (1.5 spacing) containing the following:
      - Summary of key learnings from the course
      - Self-assessment of your readiness to preach, including progress made during the course
      - Observations from watching your sermon videos
Areas on which you wish to focus for future improvement

Submit the paper via Canvas by the RTS-Orlando term paper deadline (May 13, 11:00am).

Evaluation

The paper will be graded on the quality of its reflections and its overall composition.

In other words, you will receive an A unless it is incomplete, late, or obviously thrown together at the last minute.

• Reading Report
  
  Assignment
  
  Read 200+ pages from one (or more) of the selected book.
  
  Write a 1,000-1,500 word report including the following:
  
  - Summary of the book’s main points, strengths, and weaknesses
  - Four or more favorite quotations from the book
  - Reflections on how the book may help your preaching
  
  Submit the paper via Canvas by the RTS-Orlando paper deadline (May 13, 11:00am).

Evaluation

Same as for the reflection paper (above).

6. Grading

• Expository Sermons (35% each) 70%
• Participation and Feedback 20%
• Reflection Paper 5%
• Reading Report 5%

100%

7. Schedule

• A detailed preaching schedule will be provided during the first week of class.
• Class will meet from 1:00–2:55pm weekly as follows:

  February 9    March 15    April 19
  February 16    (Spring break, no class)    April 26
  February 23    March 29    May 3
  March 1        April 5        May 10
  March 8        April 12        (Papers due, May 13)

8. Other Details

• Students are expected to dress professionally on the days they are delivering their full sermon. Students are not permitted to use laptops, tablets, or phones in class.
• The preacher is permitted to use printed notes or a tablet device, but not laptops.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<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 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>
</tr>
<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>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<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>Moderate</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</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>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<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>Minimal</td>
</tr>
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*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*