Course Syllabus

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Phone Number (386) 238-1956

Course description

This communications lab course will focus on developing the practical skills and values needed for effective, Christ-centered, biblical preaching.

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 Assignments

Speaking and Preaching Assignments

Each Student will prepare a full sermon manuscript for an expository sermon. This must be completed before the first class and turned in on the first day. This sermon manuscript will conform to the ten criteria identified below. 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. The sermon must reflect all of the ten criteria. Each student will be required to preach this sermon or some part of it in the class and will be critiqued by the class and the professor. Students may be required to rework their sermons and to present them again in whole or in part.
a) All assignments will be based on the same Scripture text. This means you will study one passage of Scripture but you may present multiple speaking/preaching assignments based on that text.

b) After speaking/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. There may be multiple brief assignments throughout the course as you work on various sermon components and skills.

c) For all assignments you will submit a complete manuscript to the instructor.

**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.

3. Critical Interactions And Discussions

As part of the class you will be required to interact critically but constructively with each student’s preaching.

4. Other Assignments
Depending on the size and needs of the class, students may also be given other assignments designed to improve their speaking ability. The professor will determine these assignments during the course.

Reading: Prior to the first day of the class each student must read “Gospel-Centered Teaching” by Trevin Wax and write a one half to one page reflection/interaction paper on the reading. A sample reading report is attached below.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon assignment &amp; full manuscript</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sermon component assignments (after critique)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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COMMUNICATIONS 1 READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Professor: Larry Kirk

Your Name:  
Date:  
Title and Author of Book:

Report:

(Limit your report to one page and write approximately one paragraph per topic.)

1. Overview - Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

2. Critique - Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

3. Application - Offer some specific application to your own ministry demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

4. Best Quote - Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.
# 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>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 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>
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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>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Minimal</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>Moderate</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>Worship</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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<td>Shepherd</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>Church/World</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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