Introduction to Preaching (06PT506)

Spring Session, 2013
Friday Afternoons: 12:00 am – 4:00 pm
February 1, 15; March 1, 15; April 5, 19

Instructor: Dr. Brian J. Lee
Email: Pastor@ChristReformedDC.org
Office Hours: By appointment, February 1 – April 19
(preferred availability is 11:00 – 12:00 am on class days)

• PURPOSE: The purpose of Introduction to Preaching is to prepare students for subsequent training in the preparation and delivery of sermons to be received in PT508/510 and PT522/524. This course aims to do so by providing a theological framework for preaching elicited from the Scriptures and the Reformed Confessions.

• DESCRIPTION: Introduction to Preaching will introduce students to a biblical theological foundation for the preaching ministry of the church, exploring the centrality of the Word of God for the creation of the covenant community, the New Testament commission for Gospel Preaching, and the nature and content of New Testament apostolic preaching. Against this biblical theological backdrop the Reformation’s teaching of the preached word as the Word of God, a means of grace, and a mark of the church will be evaluated, and the purpose and goal of contemporary preaching considered.

• REQUIRED READING:
  o The Relevance of Preaching, Pierre Ch. Marcel, Tr. By Rob Roy McGregor
    ▪ Out of Print. Photocopy will be made available. [Update: A reprint is available at Reformation Heritage books: www.HeritageBooks.org.]
  o Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture, Graeme Goldsworthy
  o Preaching Christ in All of Scripture, Edmund P. Clowney
  o Why Johnny Can’t Preach, T. David Gordon
  o The Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin (4.1; 4.2.3-4; 4.8)

• COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
  o Attendance: Students are required to attend and participate in each class. Please notify me if you plan to miss a session.
  o Reading reports (oral): Students are required to come to class prepared to deliver a 5 minute reading report on each assigned text. The oral report should summarize the assigned reading, assess its strengths and weaknesses, describe its relevance and application to the course, and be able to identify key passages and explain their
significance. Please, organize your thoughts, as a good deal of our class time will consist of your interaction with assigned texts. It is recommended that students prepare a written outline of their comments, though this will not be turned in.

- Papers
  - Biblical analysis paper — Due: MARCH 15
    Students will select a biblical text relevant to preaching, and describe its significance for the subject matter of the class and to their call as preachers. *A full exegesis of the Greek text is not expected*. Rather, this is a paper about the theology of preaching, framed around a key biblical text. 2,000 words maximum. Examples of relevant texts include Luke 24; Rom 10:12 – 17; Ez 37:1 – 14; Titus 1:1 – 3; 1 Pet 1; 1 Cor 1, 2 Tim 4 — but other relevant texts may be used.
  
  - Sermon analysis (SHORT) paper — Due: APRIL 5
    Students will select a contemporary sermon and analyze it according to the theology of preaching presented in this class. Sermon should be exemplary in its success or failure in presenting Scripture authoritatively as the divine word; preaching Christ; Law & Gospel; preaching with authority, etc. This is a shorter paper of 1000 – 1500 words. Please provide a link or mp3 file for sermon via email.
  
  - Historical analysis paper — Due: APRIL 19
    Students will select a text from the Reformed confessions or historical readings of relevance to the subject matter of the class, analyze its biblical support, and describe its significance for contemporary preaching, comparing and contrasting with competing contemporary views. *A full historical treatment of the text (context, authorship, historical significance) is not expected*. This too is a paper about the theology of preaching, framed around a key historical text. 2,000 words maximum.

- Grading:
  - Assignments will be weighted accordingly:
    - Attendance 20%
    - Reading Reports 20%
    - Biblical Analysis Paper 30%
    - Sermon Analysis Paper 20%
    - Historical Analysis Paper 30%
  
  - The standard grading scale as found in the RTS Student Handout will be employed: A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70).
• **Course Schedule and Outline**

*Reading assignments may be augmented by handouts and adjusted as necessary.*

- **Session I: February 1**
  - The Divine Word
  - The Divine Commission

  *Reading assignment:*
  - Calvin, all
  - Goldsworthy (1 – 45)

- **Session II: February 15**
  - Apostolic Preaching
  - Preaching Christ
  - Preaching Christ Crucified

  *Reading assignment:*
  - Marcel, 11 – 37
  - Goldsworthy, 46 – 62, 135 – 151, 222 – 244
  - Clowney, 9 – 44, 59 – 78

- **Session III: March 1**
  - The Gospel: Faith, Hearing, and Preaching
  - Preaching Law & Gospel

  *Reading assignment:*
  - Goldsworthy, 63 – 132, 152 – 182
  - Marcel, 49 – 55
  - Clowney, 79 – 94
  - Walther & Finney (handout)
SESSION IV: March 15

- Preaching in the Reformed Tradition:
  - A Means of Grace
  - A Mark of the Church
- Alternative Models
  
  Reading assignment:
  - Marcel, 38 – 48
  - Clowney, 45 – 58, 95 – 108
  - Reformed Confessions Handout

  **Biblical Analysis Paper Due**

SESSION V: April 5

- The Authority of the Preacher
- Contemporary Preaching
  
  Reading assignment:
  - Marcel, 56 – 110
  - Goldsworthy, 183 – 221
  - Clowney, 109 – 130

  **Sermon Analysis Paper Due**

SESSION VI: April 19

- The Media and the Messenger
  
  Reading assignment:
  - Gordon, all
  - Goldsworthy, 245 – 256
  - Clowney, 131 – 179

  **Historical Analysis Paper Due**
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Preaching I  
**Professor:** Dr. Brian Lee  
**Campus:** Washington, DC  
**Date:** February 1 – April 19, 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<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>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Student explores the concept of the preached word in Scripture; 2. Student presents oral reading reports; 3. Student submits two short papers addressing biblical and historical models of preaching</td>
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<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
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<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>1. Consider the covenantal and verbal structure of biblical revelation; 2. Explore the centrality of proclamation to the New Testament narrative</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Models of preaching in the Reformed confessions; 2. Law &amp; Gospel emphasis in Lutheran and Reformed preaching;</td>
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<th>Sanctification</th>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Centrality of justification in the Christian Life; 2. Focus on Preaching as means of grace for confirming and strengthening faith.</td>
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<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<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>
<td>1. NT emphasis on proclaiming Christ crucified to the ends of the earth.</td>
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<th>Preach</th>
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<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Consideration of what the message of Scripture is that is to be proclaimed; 2. Consideration of the purpose of preaching; 3. Relation of preaching to other means of grace.</td>
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<th>Worship</th>
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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Centrality of Word and Sacrament to Christian worship; 2. Relation of sermon to other elements of worship.</td>
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<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>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Centrality of preached word to the building up of the faith;</td>
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<th>Church/World</th>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*