

Communication II

Spring Semester 2019—Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta

Professor Aaron Menikoff

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Course Number: 04PT524

Sessions (Mondays, 5–9:20)

One: January 28

Two: February 5

Three: February 11

Four: February 18

Five: March 4

Six: March 11

“The expository method of preaching is the most obvious and natural way of conveying to the hearers the import of the sacred volume. It is the very work for which a ministry was instituted, to interpret the Scriptures.

--J. W. Alexander

“Our role as preachers and Bible teachers is to stand under the illuminating light of the words long ago set down by the Holy Spirit. Our job is to say today what God once said and nothing more. For in so doing, he still speaks.”

--David Helm

“One of the encouraging signs found among many young Christians today is a renewed appetite for expository preaching. By expository preaching I don’t mean one particular style or method of preaching, but a self-conscious, principled commitment to preaching in such a way that the Scripture itself is supplying the main theme, principle headings, and central application in our proclamation.”

--J. Ligon Duncan III

Course Description

Students preparing for a preaching ministry will preach sermons and be evaluated with careful attention given to the content, clarity, application, and delivery of each message.

Course Objectives

- 1) To help each student appreciate the power of expository preaching.
- 2) To help each student grow in his ability to move from solid, biblical exegesis to a clear and compelling sermon, with a focus on the Old Testament
- 3) To help each student apply and illustrate biblical texts in the modern world.

Course Texts

- 1) David Helm, *Expositional Preaching: How We Speak God's Word Today* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014)
- 2) J. C. Ryle, *Simplicity in Preaching*, reprint (Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2010)
- 3) Timothy Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016)
- 4) Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999).
- 5) Optional: Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000)

Course Requirements/Assignments

- 1) Participation (25%) – The course will meet six Mondays from 5–9. Absences should be cleared with the professor prior the class.
- 2) Reading (25%) – All books (unless marked optional) are to be read in their entirety. A reading report will be available on Canvas. Upload a completed reading report to Canvas indicating the percentage of each book read no later than **March 22**.
- 3) Reviews (25%) – Students are required to read and write a summary/review of the Keller and Greidanus book. Each summary/review must be between 2,000 and 2,500 words long. Upload reviews to Canvas no later than **March 22**.
- 4) Sermon Outline Presentations (25%) – Two sermon outlines will be prepared for this course. Each sermon outline must include a) an introduction which includes the main idea of the passage; b) a body which includes exegesis, application, illustration; c) a conclusion which drives home the main idea of your sermon. Instead of preaching the sermon, you will walk the class through your outline and answer any questions about your preparation and conclusions. You will select a date between February 11 and March 11 to give a presentation. Your second presentation will be uploaded to Canvas no later than **March 22**.

Acceptable Texts for Sermon Outline:

Genesis 3–11	Psalm 2
Exodus 32–34	Psalm 42
Leviticus 16	Song of Solomon 1:1–2:17
Judges 1:1–2:15	Isaiah 54
2 Samuel 24	Malachi 3:13–4:6
2 Kings 17	

Tentative Course Schedule (this is subject to change)

January 28

- Block One: Course Introduction
- Block Two: Personal Introductions
- Block Three: Lecture 1, “Why Can’t I Teach You How to Preach?”
- Block Four: Lecture 2, “Why is Preaching Crucial?”

February 5

- Block One: Lecture 3, “What Are Some Problems Preacher’s Face?”
- Block Two: Lecture 4, “What is the Purpose of a Sermon?”

Block Three: Lecture 5, "What Does it Mean to Preach Christ?"
Block Four: Lecture 6, "Why is Preaching Best in the Church?"

February 11

Block One: Lecture 7, "What Kind of Man is the Preacher?"
Block Two: Lecture 8, "What is the History of Preaching?"
Block Three: Lecture 9, "How Do You Preach Law?"
Block Four: Presentations

February 18

Block One: Lecture 10, "How Do You Preach History?"
Block Two: Lecture 11, "How Do You Preach Wisdom Literature?"
Block Three: Lecture 12, "How Do You Preach Prophecy?"
Block Four: Presentations

March 4

Block One: Lecture 13, "How Do You Apply the Text?" I
Block Two: Lecture 14, "How Do You Apply the Text?" II
Block Three: Lecture 15, "How Do You Illustrate Well?"
Block Four: Presentations

March 11

Block One: Lecture 16, "How Do You Prepare a Sermon?"
Block Two: Lecture 17, "What About Weddings, Funerals, and One-Offs?"
Block Three: Lecture 18, "What's Left?"
Block Four: Presentations

Standard RTS Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14).

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

RTS Grading Scale

A	97–100
A-	94–96
B+	91–93
B	88–90
B-	86–87
C+	83–85
C-	78–79
D+	75–77
D	72–74
D-	70–71
F	Below 70

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Preaching Lab II
 Professor: Aaron Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Spring 2018

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Focus on oral articulation skill of preaching
Scripture	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.)	Strong	Exegetical focus required to be demonstrated in sermons
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed approach to preaching is presumed and emphasized
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Preaching the Word of God sanctifies as a means of grace
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Preaching forces connections to be made between God's Word and world
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Strong	Sermon evaluation expected to be given a winsome, loving manner
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Focus of class
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Preaching should move believers to worship
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings;	Moderate	Preaching an act of shepherding

	and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.		
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussion as applicable