

**Syllabus**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Communication I: 05PT508/01 - 2.00 Hours**  
**Reformed Theological Seminary – Houston**  
**Instructor: Rev. Richard Brantley Harris**  
[rharris@cepc.org](mailto:rharris@cepc.org)

**Course Description**

This course addresses total communication for pastors with an emphasis on preaching philosophy and style, textual exposition, and sermon structure. Written and oral, verbal and nonverbal communications are included.

**Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to help students construct a Biblical theology of preaching and a basic understanding of sermon construction.

**Course Objectives**

- To foster confidence in the preached Word to save, sanctify, and comfort God's elect.
- To emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical preaching
- To introduce students to the distinct nature of expository preaching
- To introduce students to the basic construction of sermons
- To explain the different elements of a sermon
- To introduce students to basic pulpit etiquette and technique

**Course Requirements**

1. The student is required to read the following books. A reading report is due to me by May 7, 2018 regarding the percentage of the reading the student has completed.
  - a. Steve Brown, *How to Talk So People Will Listen*, Revised and Expanded ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014).
  - b. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).
  - c. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013).
  - d. Iain M. Duguid, *Is Jesus in the Old Testament?* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013).
  - e. Timothy Keller, *Preaching* (New York, NY: Viking, 2015).
  - f. John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*, Revised and Expanded ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2015).
  - g. David Powlison, *How Does Sanctification Work?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017).

2. The student is required to write a book review for each book (except Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*). The book review should be no more than two pages and include four sections: an overview of the book, a critique of the book, application from the book, and the best quote from the book. The book reviews will be due at various times throughout the semester.
3. The student will prepare a full sermon manuscript of an assigned passage. The sermon manuscript will demonstrate that the student has grasped the various parts of a sermon from Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*. The full sermon manuscript is due on May 7, 2018.

### **Grading**

Percentage of Completed Assigned Reading 10%

Book Reviews 30%

Sermon manuscript 50%

In Class Participation 10%

### **Class Schedule & Assignments (subject to change/adjustment)**

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| Feb 5    | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapters 1 – 2<br>- <b>Review of John Piper, <i>The Supremacy of God in Preaching</i> due</b>   |
| Feb 12   | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapters 3 - 4  |
| Feb 19   | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 5   |
| March 12 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 6   |
| March 19 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 7<br>- <b>Review of Steve Brown, <i>How to Talk So People Will Listen</i> due</b>   |
| April 16 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 8<br>- <b>Review of David Powlison, <i>How Does Sanctification Work?</i> due</b>  |
| April 23 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 9   |
| April 30 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 10<br>- <b>Reviews of Edmund Clowney, <i>The Unfolding Mystery</i> and Iain Duguid, <i>Is Jesus in the Old Testament?</i> are both due</b>                            |
| May 7    | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 11<br>- <b>Review of Timothy Keller, <i>Preaching</i> due</b><br>- <b>Full Sermon Manuscript due</b><br>- <b>Reading Report (% of assigned reading completed) due</b> |