

Syllabus
Fall 2021
Beginning Monday (8/30) 7p – 9p
Communication I: 05PT508/01 - 2.00 Hours
Reformed Theological Seminary – Houston
Instructor: Rev. Richard Brantley Harris
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 **Monday, December 6, 2021** 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*, 2nd ed. (or 3rd ed.) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).
 - c. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*, 2nd 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 class (see below).**

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 **Monday, December 6, 2021.**

Grading

Percentage of Completed Assigned Reading 10%

Book Reviews 30%

Sermon manuscript 50%

In Class Participation 10%

Class Schedule & Assignments (subject to change/adjustment)

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8/30 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 1
- Review of John Piper, <i>The Supremacy of God in Preaching</i> due |
| 9/13 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 2 |
| 9/20 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 3 |
| 9/27 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 4 |
| 10/4 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 5 |
| 10/11 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 6 |
| 10/18 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 7
- Review of Steve Brown, <i>How to Talk So People Will Listen</i> due |
| 10/25 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 8
- Review of David Powlison, <i>How Does Sanctification Work?</i> due |
| 11/1 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 9 |
| 11/8 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 10
- Reviews of Edmund Clowney, <i>The Unfolding Mystery</i> and Iain Duguid, <i>Is Jesus in the Old Testament?</i> are both due |
| 11/15 | Be prepared to discuss Chapell chapter 11
- Review of Timothy Keller, <i>Preaching</i> due |

11/22

We will reserve this date in case of cancellations earlier in the semester

12/6

- **Full Sermon Manuscript due**
- **Reading Report (% of assigned reading completed) due**

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Comm 1
 Professor: Richard Harris
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Spring 2021

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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>		> 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	The course strongly engages Scripture and the Jewish milieu of the first century, furnishing students with knowledge of a variety of topics.
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	With their nose in the text, students will spend a significant amount of time studying and mediating upon Scripture. The class requires students to research and write on topics pertaining to the Synoptics.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Central to this class is the exaltation of Christ and his role in redemptive history.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Since students are exposed to the various facets of the Synoptics and Acts, a love for Christ will inevitably grow as they continually look upon his character.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Key to this course is living in light of Jesus' kingdom message. Jesus taught that his kingdom inverts the world's ideals.
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	Though most Synoptic scholars are not evangelicals, there is much to be gained by their insights.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Throughout the course, attention will be given to how students are to preach the Synoptics. We will often seek to answer "what difference does it make?"

Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	As a result of this course, students will be wiser in how they worship Jesus by having a more concrete picture of who he is.
Shepherd	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.	Moderate	Having a right view of Jesus and his ministry is central to pastoring.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	As a net result of studying this Synoptics, students will have the ability to discern whether or not a teaching or movement is faithful to Jesus' message.