Course Description

This course will explore the methodologies and practices of preparing and delivering a dynamic sermon with relevance to a twenty-first century church. The class will teach how to prepare a sermon from a Biblical text with emphasis on expository preaching. Special emphasis will be given to bridging the gap between the dominate culture in modern America and the Biblical truths of scripture. Each student will not only deliver three messages but will have the benefit of learning from others preaching as well. The course is designed to be very interactive and practical.

This course is uniquely designed to learn from others in ministry facing the same tensions and pressures. By discussion and oral presentations of fellow students each person will learn the principles of preaching first hand.

Course Objectives

The clear objective of this class is to help students become excellent preachers of God’s word in an unreceptive world. Through this course students will be able to:

- Understand the basic principles of sermon preparation.
- Prepare and deliver three sermons in class and be evaluated by the professors and classmates.
- Know themselves and their individual gifts, talents and strengths while learning how to apply them in preaching.
- Learn from personal and practical interaction with current practitioners of other preaching ministries and apply that learning to a strategy for personal preaching.
- Learn the basics of using a study Bible for preparing sermons.
- Become confident and competent is preparing and delivering Biblical sermons.

Course Requirements

1. Read each book for this class. Due on day of book discussion. (10%)

2. Prepare and deliver three sermons in class while being evaluated by the professors and classmates (70%)

3. Become proficient in using a study Bible for establishing backgrounds and the historical setting of a scriptural passage (10%)
4. Develop an awareness of present American culture so as to be able to present the truths of scripture in ways the connect Biblical truths to the lives of the church congregation (10%)

Note: All Writing assignments must conform in format to Turabian, A Manual for Writers, 8th ed. 2013.

Course Grading See percentage next to course requirements.

Grading Scale:

- A = 100-95
- A- = 94-90
- B+ = 89-87
- B = 86-83
- B- = 82-80
- C+ = 79-77
- C = 76-73
- C- = 72-70
- D+ = 69-67
- D = 66-63
- D- = 62-60
- F = 59 and below

Required Readings


Class Sessions

Each class session will present a combination of lecture, discussion and practical experience.

1/14 Basic elements of a sermon
  Biblical Preaching: Chapters 1, 2
  Student Exercise
  Using resources
  NIV Study Bible

1/21 Biblical Preaching: Chapter 3
  Student Exercise
  Understanding culture
  Discuss Project America
1/28 Visit Salem Baptist Church
   House of Hope: “Pray Chicago”
   Experience preaching of others
   Observe how short messages can be profound

2/4 Biblical Preaching: Chapters 4, 5, 6
   Student Exercise
   Expository Preaching
   Styles of Preaching
   Discuss Inductive Preaching
   How to evaluate a sermon

2/11 Biblical Preaching: Chapter 7
   Preach first sermon

2/18 Biblical Preaching: Chapter 8
   Student Exercise
   Discuss How to Speak to Youth and Keep Them Awake at the Same Time
   Being relevant in society
   Preparing a sermon that touches people

2/25 Biblical Preaching: Chapter 9
   Student Exercise
   Preach second sermon
   Evaluation and critiques

3/4 Biblical Preaching: Chapter 10
   Student Exercise
   Manuscript Preaching
   Preaching without notes
   Preaching of others
   Student Exercise
   The art of listening

3/11 Biblical Preaching: A Final Word
   Student Exercise
   Good preaching when people don’t listen

3/18 Final Sermon
   Final Exam

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account.
Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.
As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Diploma/Certificate Student Course Requirements**
The amount of work required of Diploma/Certificate students will be at the discretion of the professor. Students will be responsible for contacting the professor about what assignments are required.

**Class Attendance Policy**
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

**Class Tardiness Policy**
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

**Late Work Policy**
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

**Turabian Format**
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.seminary.edu](http://moodle.seminary.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to [moodlehelp@seminary.edu](mailto:moodlehelp@seminary.edu).