

Preaching I Lab

(4PT510) – 2 hours

Fall 2008

"The hardest thing about preaching is the first 60 years"
[John Chapman, Moore College Sydney]¹

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the cultural backdrop to Romans. Bruce's pastoral experience has taught him the importance of preaching and he is passionate that everyone graduating from RTS Atlanta would be able to preach "pretty well".

< Office hrs: **T**, 3:30-5:30; **Th**, 11.00-12:30. Email me for an appointment; blowe@rts.edu >

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Preaching I, you will learn the theory. Now it is time to practice what you have learnt so that it will seep into your bones! This course will focus upon cementing the skills required to prepare a good exegetical sermon and the "skills" require for a life of ongoing improvement. Through class exercises, speaking experience and critique, students will gain practice in all that is basic to good preaching.

Saturday the 4th of October lays the foundation by bridging with *Preaching I* material and emphasizing certain part of it which this Lab course will consider important. We will also do some practice on things the rest of the course will involve. Here we will also schedule when each student will present their 15 minute sermon.

The first Tuesday will then involve focusing on one text of Scripture. As a class we will

¹ Until recently it was "the first 50 years"... Chapman himself has now preached for more than 50 years. And is still learning...

spend our three hours understanding it... getting the big idea and sub-points... talking about how we can illustrate and apply each point. THIS PASSAGE WILL BE THE TEXT FOR STUDENTS PREACHING THEIR 15 MINUTE TALKS THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

The second Tuesday will start by dividing students into groups and having them present their talks to others in the class who will write up written evaluation forms - verbal feedback will also be given by the students. YOU WILL NOT BE MARKED DOWN FOR USING ANY OR ALL OF THE MATERIAL FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK... IN FACT THIS IS ENCOURAGED. It is part of learning process that you will learn from each other. Marks will be allocated mainly on the basis of the simplicity of manuscript and its 'natural English' (a major focus from the Saturday session), as well as how you have put the material together. The rest of the second Tuesday will be the same as the first - preparing the next week's sermon together as a class.

Each Tuesday from here will be the same as the last.

Besides being graded on your 15 minute sermon, you will have a final exam involving the same process as in class - preparing a 15 minute sermon from scratch using the principles from Preaching I. The other piece of assessment is that I will collect your critique of others to grade how well you critique another sermon – obviously grading on this last point will be lighter at the start of the semester than near the end.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. That students will become cemented in the basic skills of sermon preparation.
2. That students will take a self-critical, humble and long-term perspective to preaching.
3. That students will learn the importance of “speaking naturally”.

READING

<No additional texts or articles beyond Preaching I class>

ASSESSMENT

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 20% | 15 minute Sermon Preached in class on assigned text; <u>due dates</u>, vary from student to student. |
| 20% | Based on written critiques of other students; <u>due dates</u>, throughout semester. |

60%

Final Exam – to be completed and emailed to me (blowe@rts.edu) before **January 1st (2009), midnight.**

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

Saturday 2nd October; 8:30am – 3:30pm (Lunch 11:30-12:20)

Tuesday 21st October to Tuesday 9th December (excluding 24th November [Thanksgiving week]); 6pm to 9pm.

General Outline

Week	Date	Assessment/HW Due	Class Lectures
1 A 1 B 1 C 1 D 1 E 1 F	O4		Brief “practice” of Semester format How to Speaking Naturally (I) How to Speaking Naturally (II). How to Speak Naturally (III) How to Critique (I) Review of Semester goals & outcomes
2 A 2 B 2 C	O21		Big Idea. Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
3 A 3 B 3 C	O28		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
4 A 4 B 4 C	N4		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
5 A 5 B 5 C	N11		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
6 A 6 B 6 C	N18		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
Thanksgiving Break			
7 A 7 B 7 C	D2		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application
8 A 8 B 8 C	D9		SERMON PRESENTATION Big Idea. & Outline. Intro, Concl., Illustration, Application