

Introduction to Preaching (4PT 506)
Winter 2012
Robert Leslie Holmes
rlesholmes@aol.com

Course Description

This course is an introduction to preaching that lays a foundation for the necessity of preaching for the church. It lays out a theology and history of preaching as a basis for understanding the role of preaching within God's redemptive program and explores some hermeneutical issues related to preaching from both the Old Testament and New Testament. There is also an emphasis on the principles and process of sermon preparation.

Course Objectives

1. To assist students to grow in their love for and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to desire to preach more effectively for His glory.
2. To lay a foundation for understanding the history and theology of preaching.
3. To introduce the hermeneutics of preaching and its significance for understanding the task of preaching.
4. To develop the importance of the preparation of the preacher in preaching.
5. To develop a methodology of sermon preparation by working step by step through the construction of a sermon.

Course Meeting Schedule

Classes will meet, God willing, on the Atlanta campus for three weekends in January 2012. We plan to meet on Friday evenings from 6.30pm until 8.30pm and on Saturdays from 8.30am until 4.30pm. Meeting dates are January 13-14, 20-21, 27-28.

Textbooks

- 1) Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)
- 2) Robert Leslie Holmes, *When Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough* (Greenville: Ambassador-International, 2005) Do not buy. Will be gifted to students by Holmes.

Recommended reading: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. *Preaching and Preachers* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1972)

In addition, there will be certain selected articles from current publications that the professor deems helpful to students in this course. These will be distributed in class.

Assignments

1. There is a take-home Final Exam based on the lectures and readings
2. There is an “mini-speech” assignment for the first class, which shall be given at that class. The purpose of this assignment is to give students with no previous experience of public speaking an exposure to that art and craft.
3. There is a weekly sermon review due for classes 2 and 3
4. There will be two written sermons (outline plus a complete manuscript required in advance) delivered by each student. These shall follow the methodology laid out in the course. The first will be on a passage chosen by the student. The second will be on a passage assigned by the professor.
5. There will be a written book review for each of the assigned books (Chapell and Holmes). Each book review should be 3-4 pages in length.

Grades

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| 1. Written/preached Sermons | 50% total |
| 2. Final Exam | 20% |
| 3. Sermon reviews | 15% total |
| 4. Book reviews | 15% total |

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)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Introduction to Preaching (PT 506)

Professor: Robert Leslie Holmes

Campus: Atlanta

Date: January 2012

<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	a brief initial speech and two written/preached sermons are required; a theological basis and the hermeneutics of preaching are covered
Scripture	A working knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture and developing skills to research further into Scripture's original meaning so as to be able to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances.	Strong	the importance of Scripture's original meaning as a basis for its modern application in preaching is emphasized.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	the theology and hermeneutics of preaching touches on a few issues
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	discussions of application of the text deals with sanctification issues
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	the goal of preaching is to help people do this
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces an ethos of preaching that is winsomely Reformed, including an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, and a God-honoring manner toward non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in every relationship.	Minimal	respect for other methods of preaching is encouraged
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the Gospel to both the heart and mind of both believers and unbelievers with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	this is the heart of the course
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual growth; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	a working knowledge of the role of the "pastor-teacher" (Eph. 4:11-12) as it relates to preaching is emphasized in this course.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	