PT522 COMMUNICATIONS II AND
PT524 PREACHING LAB

by
Elias dos Santos Medeiros

COURSE DESIGN

Reformed Theological Seminary

Jackson, Mississippi
Spring 2012 A.D.
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PT522 COMMUNICATIONS II and PT524 PREACHING LAB

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

During this course, the students will review some basic principles regarding the person of the preacher, the preaching process, and the power of the preaching. It “will focus on preaching from different literary genres of the New Testament” using different styles of preaching. As in the years before, “PT522 and PT524 go together, and students must take them at the same time.”

“The course will be graded on participation in both the class and the Lab. Thus, grades will not be the same for both. Only under extremely circumstances will permission be granted for a student to take the Class without the Lab.”

PROFESSOR INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURE

Lectures, small group discussions, short projects to implement the principles considered, listening sermons from different preachers and preaching styles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance—Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions. No student should absent himself from classes in order to fulfill requirements or responsibilities of other classes. Those with absences may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.  

   FOUR (4) ABSENCES:  GRADE C+  
   THREE (3) ABSENCES:  GRADE B-

2. Chapel attendance on Wednesdays is strongly recommended.

3. The careful reading of the assigned materials and three written reading reports (at least two pages for each book), single space, highlighting the main propositions, statements, theses, principles, etc., gathered from the reading. IT IS THE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT THE WRITTEN READING REPORTS VIA E-MAIL ON THE DUE DATES. DON'T WAIT FOR A REMINDER.

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1 Most of the requirements that follow have been part of this course before, as it was taught by Rev. Dr. David Jussely during previous years.


4. You will preach at least three to four times this semester in the preaching lab.
   a. The first sermon will be assigned this week.
   b. The second sermon—from one of the historical narratives of the New Testament
   c. The third sermon—from one of the epistles
   d. The fourth sermon—imperative text (you choose the passage)

5. Sermons must be confined to a time limit of 25 minutes (excluding the reading of the text).

6. A full manuscript of each sermon you preach is to be handed to the professor at least one day before you preach. An outline of every sermon will be given to your classmates.

7. Sermons should not be read. You may use an extensive or full sentence outline.

8. If you desire to record or videotaped your sermon, you are responsible to provide the appropriate equipment.

9. Sermon evaluations are for the purpose of improving your "communications" skills, the content of what has been exposed, and the "impact" on the hearers.
   a. Classroom participation (including the readings) and attendance (25%)
   b. Historical Narrative Sermon (25%)
   c. Epistle Sermon (25%)
   d. Imperative Sermon (25%)

10. "Pastoral preaching is the order of the day. Aim to reach and persuade the ‘average’ member of the flock, not the seminary buddies." Prepare yourself to feed the sheep, not the giraffes.
COMMUNICATIONS II: SUBJECTS TO BE REVIEWED

I. The Preacher
   A. Calling
   B. Character
   C. Credentials
      1. Progress—Between Two Worlds, 180-210
      2. Ecclesiastical
   D. Word Studies—The Preachers’s Portrait

II. The Preaching
   A. Why preaching?
      1. Contemporary Objections—Between Two Worlds, 50-91
      2. Biblical/Practical Convictions
      3. Theological Convictions—Between Two Worlds, 92-134
      4. Historical Convictions—Between Two Worlds, 15-49
   B. Who should preach?
      1. Ordained preachers
      2. Un-ordained preachers
   C. How to preach—Between Two Worlds, 211-261

III. The Power
   A. Of the Holy Spirit
   B. On the Preacher
   C. On the Hearers
   D. On the Growth of the Church—The Book of Acts
   E. Power Preaching for Church Growth, David Eby

BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND WEBSITES ON PREACHING

There are numerous online bibliographies on preaching (from all different theological persuasion and denominational perspectives). You will also be able to listen to thousands (if you have the time) of sermons on audio and video available online as well. For example, Pastor John Piper’s last Sunday sermon is already available online to listen (audio and video) and to read.

You will be able to, practically, hear and even to read any well known preacher you have ever heard about for the past 150 years. Therefore, none of us preachers (whether beginners or finishers) have no excuses whatsoever to not take time to listen, to learn, and to lead.

Besides, any good book on preaching brings some very good references for you to start with. But here is my advice: be sure you will spend more time of God’s Book daily. There is no substitute for such daily intake of the Word. Be sure also that you meditate on the whole Book (from Genesis to Revelation) at least once a year. The problem with many “preachers” is not
that they don’t read books about preaching. The problem is that they do not know the Book from Which they are supposed to preach from and to live by.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” (John 15:9-10).

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom…” (Colossians 3:16a).

“I would say that all preachers should read through the whole Bible in its entirety at least once every year….That should be the very minimum of the preacher's Bible reading.”

“Be masters of your Bibles, brethren,’ said Spurgeon to his students; ‘whatever other works you have not searched, be at home with the writings of the prophets and apostles….To understand the Bible should be our ambition; we should be familiar with it, as familiar as the housewife with her needle, the merchant with his ledger, the mariner with his ship….it is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last...your blood is Bible and the very essence of the Bible flows from you.”

Master and be mastered by the Word of God. And “preach the Word” by Which you have been mastered.

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3 Charles Spurgeon on Lectures to My Students, quoted by John Stott in Between Two Worlds, p. 184.
**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes**

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<tr>
<th><strong>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
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<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Students will be preaching three sermons and submitting a full manuscript of the sermons</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
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| 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 | 1. Working with the Greek New Testament  
2. Biblical Expositions on selected texts of the New Testament  
3. Hermeneutics and exegesis of passages required as preparation. |
| **Reformed Theology**             |            |                        |
| Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | 1. Students will be aware that Reformed preaching assumes God’s sovereignty regarding the Text, the Preacher, and the Audience to whom they preach.  
2. Students will also assume the WS teachings regarding the Scriptures and their use (WS Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scriptures) |
<p>| <strong>Sanctification</strong>                |            |                        |
| Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Stress the almost causal relationship between the sanctified living (the character of the preacher) of the preacher and the impact of such godly preaching on those who hear him. Godliness and Preaching ought to go |</p>
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<th><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></th>
<th>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</th>
<th><strong>Strong</strong></th>
<th>Burning desire to conform all aspects of their preaching (from preparation to application) to the Word of God and a Reformed World view</th>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td><strong>Moderate/Minimal</strong></td>
<td>Students are expected to display respect for those who will be preaching and who approach some subjects (by application or implication) from another denominational perspective, if there is a student who does not come from a Reformed background</td>
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| **Preach**               | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | **Strong** | 1. Students will be spending a great amount of time on sermon preparation, which includes: time of intensive prayer, in-depth meditation on the Scriptural text; understanding, explanation, illustration, and application of text in the mind, hearts, and “feet” (will) of their hearers.  
2. There is an evaluation written procedure on those aspects of delivery and feedback |
| **Worship**              | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | **Minimal** | The liturgy used during their preaching exercises is limited to a prayer and the reading of the text in which they will preach. |
| **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. | **Minimal** | Such shepherding aspect will be felt, we expected, at the moment of preaching and small group discussions. |
| **Church/World** | **Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.** | **Minimal/Moderate** | **It will depend on what kind of text the student will be preaching on and how he applies it to the broader context. But it will be observed by the participants.** |