Instructor: Bob Orner, Guest Lecturer of Practical Theology.
Phone: 407-366-9493, ext.233
E-mail: Borner@rts.edu

Office Hours:
Mondays: 1:30 – 3:30
Tuesdays: 2:30 – 4:00
Wednesdays: 10:00 -12:00
Thursdays: 10:00-12:00

Class Meeting: Monday 3-6PM

I. Course description: This course will focus on refining the practical skills and confidence needed for effective, Christ-centered, biblical preaching.

II. Course Objectives

A. A Mind for Truth: Transforming Your Understanding.
   1. To understand the biblical and theological principles of homiletics
   2. To understand basic sermon components and their functions
   3. To understand the fundamentals of sermon preparation and delivery
   4. To understand the priority and practice of Christ-centered preaching
   5. To understand the specific challenges of preaching in the present culture

B. A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affections.
   1. Increased confidence in preparing and delivering Christ-centered expository sermons
   2. Deepening commitment to and experience of Christ-centered life and ministry
   3. Clear conviction of the power and importance of Christ-centered preaching
   4. Increased sensitivity to cultural issues as they relate to the task of preaching

C. A Life for Ministry: Transforming Your Behavior
   1. Increased competence in public speaking in general and sermon delivery in particular.
   2. Increased ability to construct and deliver biblically sound, culturally relevant Christ-centered sermons.

III. Course Assignments

A. Preaching Assignments
   1. Student will be required to preach at least two expository sermons.
      a. One Sermon must be on a topic assigned by the Instructor.
      b. One Sermon must be an Evangelistic sermon and preached from a text selected by the student and approved by the instructor.
   2. Student will be required to do the following assignments:
      a. A Wedding Homily (10 Minutes).
      b. A Funeral Homily (10 Minutes).
      c. A Graveside Message (5 minutes).
      d. A Creative Reading.
3. After preaching each time in class the student will:
   a. Receive critical feedback from the instructor and fellow students. This feedback will help the student develop a plan for improving both sermon preparation and delivery.
   b. Give them self a grade for each sermon.

4. For all assignments the student will submit a complete manuscript to the instructor unless otherwise instructed.

B. Sermon Criteria:
1. The sermon will be an expository sermon.
2. The sermon will begin with an introduction that creates interest, identifies a need and leads into the text and topic.
3. The sermon will contain a main idea, thought or proposition that can be clearly stated in a single sentence. (This must be identified in the manuscript)
4. The sermon must contain a clear outline that includes main points expressed in complete sentence statements.
5. Each main point must be clearly demonstrated as derived from the text and must be clearly developed in the exposition.
6. Each main point must be developed, illustrated and applied. The exposition must display thoughtful study of the Scripture that is faithful to the text.
7. The illustrations must be well chosen and appropriate.
8. The application must be biblical, clear, culturally relevant, and Christ-centered.
9. The conclusion of the sermon must be crafted to bring the sermon to a purposeful ending.
10. The sermon delivery must demonstrate good delivery values and skills, such as dependence on the Holy Spirit, heartfelt passion, and the ability to engage with the listeners in a meaningful way.

C. Other Assignments
Depending on the size and needs of the class, students may also be given other assignments designed to improve their speaking ability. The professor will determine these assignments during the course. There is no advance reading required for this course.

IV. Grading

A. Grading Scale
Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

B. Late Assignments Policy
Please do not ask me for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family) please turn in a written request.

C. Grading Percentages:
- Class Attendance Participation 20%
- First Sermon assignment 30%
- Second Sermon assignment 30%
- Other Assignments 20%
## V. Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class One &lt;br&gt; <em>February 13</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Two &lt;br&gt; <em>February 20</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Three &lt;br&gt; <em>February 27</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Four &lt;br&gt; <em>March 5</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Five &lt;br&gt; <em>March 12</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Six &lt;br&gt; <em>March 19</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Class &lt;br&gt; <em>March 26</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Class Seven &lt;br&gt; <em>March 31</em>&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Eight &lt;br&gt; <em>April 2</em>&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Nine &lt;br&gt; <em>April 9</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Ten &lt;br&gt; <em>April 16</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Eleven &lt;br&gt; <em>April 23</em>&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Twelve &lt;br&gt; <em>April 30</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Thirteen &lt;br&gt; <em>May 7</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Fourteen &lt;br&gt; <em>May 14</em>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Student Assignments</td>
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**Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Scripture</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sanctification</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></th>
<th><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></th>
<th><strong>Preach</strong></th>
<th><strong>Worship</strong></th>
<th><strong>Shepherd</strong></th>
<th><strong>Church/World</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>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.)</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</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>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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**Rubric**
- Strong
- Moderate
- Minimal
- None

**Mini-Justification**
- Student will write and preach at least two expository sermons, presenting essential biblical, theological, historical and culturally relevant material.
- Sermons will be rooted in sound exegesis, exhibiting careful study of the original meaning of Scripture. Heavy emphasis will be made on how the student applies the truths of Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances and contexts.
- Sermons will be partially evaluated through the grid of Reformed Theology and Practice. Minimal emphasis will be placed on the Westminster Standards.
- By God’s grace and through interaction with the Scripture and hearing other student’s sermons, the student will die more to self, and deepen their affection for the Triune God, the Church, and their neighbor.
- Student will gain a deep understanding of the Mission of God, particularly how the proclamation of Scripture is used by God to conform all of life to the World of God.
- Student will be evaluated on whether their sermons present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians and a truth-in-love attitude in dealing with areas of disagreement.
- Students will be evaluated on their ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
- Student will gain understanding on the role of the preacher in worship and the centrality of the proclamation of the Word of God to worship.
- The student will grow in their understanding of the place of preaching in shepherding the church.
- The student will gain an understanding on how to preach within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church and with significant public issues.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*
Personal Student Information

Please fill this out and turn it in during the first class.

Name: ________________________________________________________________________

Spouse name: __________________________________________________________________

Children, name(s) and age(s):
1. ______________________________
2. ______________________________
3. ______________________________
4. ______________________________
5. ______________________________
6. ______________________________

RTS degree program/emphasis: ___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Years at RTS Orlando: ________________________________________________________

Church presently attending: ____________________________________________________

Denomination background (Southern Baptist, PCA, etc.): _____________________________

I have preached in an actual church worship service approximately ______ times.

I have taught or spoken in a public setting _____ times.

As of today:

☐ I have a strong call to a preaching/teaching ministry.
☐ I do not believe preaching/teaching will be the primary focus of my ministry.
☐ I am still seeking what role God has for me in His Kingdom.
Desired future ministry role (pastor, church planter, missionary, counselor, etc.): __________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What role do you believe Preaching/teaching will play in this ministry? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What is the hardest part of preaching for you? ______________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What are your expectations of the course? What would you like to learn? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What is one subject/topic that you will like to discuss in class this semester? ______________
___________________________________________________________________________

What is a specific, personal prayer request you would like the professor to be remembering in
prayer for you this semester? ________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________