

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — WASHINGTON, D.C. CAMPUS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Preaching (PT506)

Spring Session, 2011

Thursday Afternoons, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, February 10th – April 28th
McLean Presbyterian Church

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Brian J. Lee
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- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of *Introduction to Preaching* is to prepare students for subsequent training in the preparation and delivery of sermons to be received in PT508/510 and PT522/524. This course aims to do so by providing a theological framework for preaching elicited from the Scriptures and the Reformed Confessions.
- **DESCRIPTION:** *Introduction to Preaching* will introduce students to a biblical theological foundation for the preaching ministry of the church, exploring the centrality of the Word of God for the creation of the covenant community, the New Testament commission for Gospel Preaching, and the nature and content of New Testament apostolic preaching. Against this biblical theological backdrop the Reformation's teaching of the preached word as the Word of God, a means of grace, and a mark of the church will be evaluated, and the purpose and goal of contemporary preaching considered.
- **REQUIRED READING:**
 - *The Relevance of Preaching*, Pierre Ch. Marcel, Tr. By Rob Roy McGregor
 - Out of Print. Photocopy will be made available.
 - *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*, Graeme Goldsworthy
 - *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*, Edmund P. Clowney
 - *Why Johnny Can't Preach*, T. David Gordon
 - Copy provided free of charge by professor.
 - *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John Calvin (4.1; 4.2.3-4; 4.8)

- **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attendance: Students are required to attend and participate in each class. Please notify me if you plan to miss a session.
- Reading reports: Students are required to come to class prepared to deliver a 5 minute reading report on each assigned text. The oral report should summarize the assigned reading, assess its strengths and weaknesses, describe its relevance and application to the course, and be able to identify key passages and explain their significance. Not all students will deliver reports on all readings, but they must be prepared to do so.
- Papers

- Biblical analysis paper (DUE MARCH 24)

Students will select a biblical text relevant to preaching, and describe its significance for the subject matter of the class and to their call as preachers. *A full exegesis of the Greek text is not expected.* Rather, this is a paper about the theology of preaching, framed around a key biblical text. 2,000 words maximum.

- Historical analysis paper (DUE APRIL 28)

Students will select a text from the Reformed confessions or historical readings of relevance to the subject matter of the class, analyze its biblical support, and describe its significance for contemporary preaching, comparing and contrasting with competing contemporary views. *A full historical treatment of the text (context, authorship, historical significance) is not expected.* This too is a paper about the theology of preaching, framed around a key historical text. 2,000 words maximum.

- **GRADING:**

- Assignments will be weighted accordingly:
 - Attendance 20%
 - Reading Reports 20%
 - Biblical Analysis Paper 30%
 - Historical Analysis Paper 30%
- The standard grading scale as found in the RTS Student Handout will be employed: A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88- 90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77/0), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70).

- **COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE**

Full reading Assignments will be provided in the final syllabus distributed on the first day of class.

- February 10
 - Read Calvin (all), Goldsworthy (1 – 45)
 - The Divine Word
 - The Divine Commission
- February 24
 - Preaching Christ
 - Preaching Christ Crucified
- March 10
 - The Preaching, Hearing, and the Gospel
 - Preaching Law & Gospel
- March 24
 - Preaching in the Reformed Tradition:
 - A Means of Grace
 - A Mark of the Church
 - Alternative Models

- **Biblical Analysis Paper Due March 24**

- April 7
 - The Authority of the Preacher
 - Contemporary Preaching
- April 28
 - Contemporary Preaching (cont.)
 - The Media and the Messenger

- **Historical Analysis Paper Due April 28**