Introduction to Preaching
Reformed Theological Seminary | Atlanta
*God-Centered Preaching & The God-Centered Preacher*

Syllabus | Winter 2016
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jon D. Payne
Contact Info: jdpchristchurch@icloud.com

**Course Instructor**
The Rev. Dr. Jon D. Payne is the church planting pastor of Christ Church Presbyterian (PCA) in Charleston, South Carolina. From 2003-2013 Dr. Payne served as the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Douglasville, Georgia. He is the Convener of the *Gospel Reformation Network*, and a council member of the *Twin Lakes Fellowship*. He is a graduate of Clemson University (B.A. ‘93), Reformed Theological Seminary (M.A.T.S ‘98 / D.Min ’04), and the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), New College (M.Th. ‘02). Dr. Payne is a visiting lecturer in practical theology at Reformed Theological Seminary (Atlanta/Charlotte), series editor of and contributor to the *Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament* (Tolle Lege, 2012—), and author/editor of several books including *John Owen On the Lord’s Supper* (Banner of Truth, 2004), *In the Splendor of Holiness: Rediscovering the Beauty of Reformed Worship for the 21st Century* (Tolle Lege, 2008; translated into Spanish, Burmese, Chinese, and Portuguese), and *A Faith Worth Teaching: The Heidelberg Catechism's Enduring Heritage* (Reformation Heritage Books, 2013). He recently edited and introduced Hughes Oliphant Old’s magisterial *Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church* (Tolle Lege, 2014), and contributed a chapter entitled ‘Jonathan Edwards: Missionary to the Indians’ to (ed.) William Schweitzer’s new book, *Jonathan Edwards for the Church* (Evangelical Press, 2015). Dr. Payne contributes to *Modern Reformation, The Expositor, Table Talk*, etc., and frequently speaks at Reformed conferences around the world. He and his wife, Marla, have been married for 17 years and have two children, Mary Hannah (12) and Hans (10).

**Course Purpose**
The purpose of this course is to help introduce students to a Biblical and Reformed understanding of the preaching of the Word of God.

**Course Goals**

1. To foster confidence in the preached Word to save, sanctify, and comfort God’s elect.
2. To understand the relationship between preaching and worship (Liturgy).
3. To consider the profound benefits of *lectio continua/systematic expository* preaching.
4. To introduce the rich history of lectio/continua preaching throughout the ages.
5. To consider the biblical qualifications for the calling and preparation of the preacher.
General Course Outline

An Overview of Biblical Preaching
Confidence, Boldness, and Faithfulness: Preaching and the Doctrine of Scripture
Understanding Preaching as a Means of Grace: Preaching & the Reformed Confessions
Hipster or Herald?: Five Exhortations for Young Preachers

**Seminar One:** D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching & Preachers*
How Shall We Then Preach? A Brief Look at Different Styles of Preaching With a Specific Focus Upon Systematic Expository Preaching (*Lectio Continua*).
Gleanings on Preaching from Church History
   - In Season & Out of Season: Charles Simeon on Preaching (1759-1836).
   - The History of *lectio continua*/systematic expository preaching.

**Seminar Two:** T. David Gordon, *Why Johnny Can’t Preach*
Preaching As Worship: A Biblical and Reformed view of preaching as it relates to the elements of Christian worship and liturgy.
Getting it Right: Preaching Christ and Him Crucified from All of Scripture

**Seminar Three:** Hughes Old, *The Reading And Preaching Of The Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church, Volume 4: The Age of the Reformation*
The Call of the Preacher: Understanding the internal and external call.
The Preparation of the Preacher: qualifications, education, piety, etc.
The Preparation of the Sermon

**Seminar Four:** Essay & book reviews, discussion, etc.
Review / Exam (final day of class)

**Required Reading**

1. Dennis Johnson, *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (P&R, 2007)
6. David McWilliams, *Hebrews*, LCECNT series (Tolle Lege, 2015) ~ optional | extra-credit (2%)
**Essay Topics**

1. Preaching as a Means of Grace
2. A Modern Preaching Crisis & an Ancient Solution
3. The Foolishness of Preaching
4. *Lectio Continua* Preaching & the Protestant Reformation
5. *It Shall Not Return Void*: The Sufficiency and Efficacy of Faithful Preaching

**Assignments | Grading Scale**

Essay: 40% (12 pages - double spaced / 12 point font)
Seminars: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Required Reading: 10% (All or nothing)

** All assignments due on Friday, February 12th by Midnight (6 weeks from last day of class). Late assignments lose one grade per day).

**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:** Intro to Preaching  
**Professor:** Jon D. Payne  
**Campus:** Atlanta, GA  
**Date:** January 5–8

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<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini–Justification</th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Strong | 1. Each student will participate in an oral seminar, discussing key texts on preaching.  
2. Each student will write an essay focusing upon important theological, historical, and cultural aspects of preaching. |
| **Scripture** | Strong | 1. Discuss biblical foundation of preaching as a means of grace.  
2. Discuss history of lectio continua preaching from early church to the present. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Strong | 1. Study Six Major Reformed Confessions on the subject of preaching.  
2. Discuss what is a Reformed approach to preaching. |
| **Sanctification** | Moderate | 1. Learn how preaching is a means of growth and maturity in Christ. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Minimal | 1. Explore how preaching cultivates a biblical mindset and approach to life, family and vocation. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Strong | 1. Discuss the importance of love and humility in preaching and teaching the Bible. |
| **Preach** | Strong | 1. Discuss Lloyd-Jones’ idea that preaching should be logic on fire (mind and heart). |

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*
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<th>Worship</th>
<th>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian–worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>1. Will explore the place of preaching within a Reformed liturgy.</th>
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<td>Shepherd</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>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Discuss how preaching integrates with shepherding care of the flock.</td>
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<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Discuss preaching in relation to cultural and global issues.</td>
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