Professor: Legree Finch, D. Min.
Contact Information: pf4595@aol.com; or phone: 770-653-7721

Calendar Schedule and Time Frame:

Feb. 19-20: Friday- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Skip a Weekend

March 4-5: Friday- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Skip a Weekend

March 18-19: Friday- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Total hours per weekend: 10 (9 total classroom hours plus a 1 hour break for lunch on Saturday)

Total Classroom hours for the Com. 1 Course: 27 classroom hours

This course is designed to teach seminarians the fundamentals of sermon preparation while also emphasizing the Christocentric nature of the Scriptures. Students will be expected to read Dr. Bryan Chapell’s book, *Christ Centered Preaching* (2005 edition), which will serve as a primary text for these Com 1 classes. Before the third weekend of classes, students will also be required to read the Professor Finch’s manuscript, *The Story of Jesus Christ – God’s Son, Savior*, which highlights the Christocentric nature of the Old and New Testaments. This manuscript will be distributed at the conclusion of the second weekend of classes. Edmund Clowney’s work, *Preaching Christ in all Scripture*, and Sidney Greidanus’ volume, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*, are also recommended resources.

The book of 1 John will serve as the foundational base from which the various sermon components will be prepared. Students are also required to read the book of 1 John in three translations: ESV, NIV and a translation of the student’s choice.

This course will focus on the Scripture’s exhortation to ministers of the Word of God and the development of the following sermon components:
- the fallen condition focus, the ‘traditional mechanical layout’/conceptual outline of the text, the main points/universal statements and subpoints, the primary propositional sentence, sermon illustrations, applications, introductions, conclusions, transitions and a Christ-centered focus when proclaiming the Word of the Lord.

Course Grade: The final grade for the Com 1 course will be based upon:
1. Prompt attendance for each of the weekend classes (15%)
2. Completion of all the required reading (20 %)
3. Completion of all the ‘in-class’ assignments (20%)
4. On-time completion and return of the assigned written sermon manuscript from the Gospel of John to Professor Finch by April 15, 2016 (45 %)

In the Friday evening and Saturday classes, each of the numbered segments will require approximately 45 minutes followed by a 15 minute break.
1. This class will consist of introductions and a review of the Com I syllabus along with a teaching segment that focuses on Scriptures which challenge student preachers as well as experienced pastors regarding the ministry of preaching the Word of God. (total classroom teaching time: 45 minutes)

2. This teaching segment will focus on identifying the ‘Fallen Condition Focus’ within a sermon text. Students will be expected to have read (before class) chapter 2 (pp.43-57) of Christ Centered Preaching: ‘Obligations of the Sermon’ as well as chapter 10 (pp. 269-275), A Redemptive Approach to Preaching by Dr. Bryan Chapell. (total classroom teaching time: 45 minutes)

3. From the text previously provided by the professor:
Each student will identify and transcribe the ‘Fallen Condition Focus.’
Each student will also be expected to read the ‘Fallen Condition Focus’ for his classroom-crafted sermon before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

4. This teaching segment will focus on chapter 5 in Christ Centered Preaching: The Process of Explanation. Students will be expected to have read this chapter before the Friday evening class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

5. From the text previously provided by the professor:
Each student will prepare a ‘traditional mechanical layout’/conceptual outline of his assigned text.
Each student will also place his ‘traditional mechanical layout’/conceptual outline on the classroom dry erase board. (total class time: 45 minutes)

6. This teaching segment will focus on a portion of chapter 6 (pp.129-143 & pp. 149-161) in Christ Centered Preaching regarding the development of the main points/universal statements & subpoints. Students will be expected to have read chapter 6 (pp.129-143 & pp. 149-161) before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

7. Saturday lunch hour break

8. From the text previously provided by the professor:
Each student will prepare the main points/universal statements & subpoints which serve as the main & subpoints for his classroom-crafted sermon.
Each student will also be asked to read his completed main points/universal statements and subpoints before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

9. This teaching segment will focus on a portion of chapter 6 (pp.143-149) & chapter 10 (pp.269-272) in Christ Centered Preaching regarding the development of a propositional sentence for an expository sermon. Students will be expected to have read chapter 6 (pp.143-149) and chapter 10 (pp.269-272) before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

10. From the text previously provided by the professor:
Each student will prepare a propositional sentence which will be included in the introduction of his ‘classroom’ crafted sermon.
Each student will also be asked to read his propositional sentence before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)
1. This teaching segment will focus on chapter 7 in *Christ Centered Preaching* regarding the selection/preparation and use of illustrations in expository sermons. Students will be expected to have read chapter 7 before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

2. Each student will select/prepare three sermon illustrations for his class-room crafted expository sermon. Each student will also be asked to read his sermon illustrations before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

3. This teaching segment will focus on the development of applications for an expository sermon. Students will be expected to have read chapter 8 (pp. 209-235) in *Christ Centered Preaching* before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

4. Each student will select/prepare three sermon applications for his classroom-crafted expository sermon. Each student will also be asked to read his three sermon applications before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

5. This teaching segment will focus on the development of sermon introductions for an expository sermon. Students will be expected to have read a portion of chapter 9 (pp. 237-253) in *Christ Centered Preaching* before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

6. Each student will select/prepare a sermon introduction for his classroom-crafted expository sermon. Each student will also be asked to read his sermon introduction before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

7. Saturday lunch hour break

8. This teaching segment will focus on the development of a conclusion as well as transitions for an expository sermon. Students will be expected to have read a portion of chapter 9 (pp.253-265) in *Christ Centered Preaching* before this teaching segment. (total class time: 45 minutes)

9. Each student will select/prepare a conclusion and transitions for his classroom-crafted expository sermon. Each student will also be asked to read his sermon introduction before the class. (total class time: 45 minutes)

10. Each student will spend this last hour selecting a text from the *Gospel of John* and beginning to work on his expository sermon manuscript. This completed sermon manuscript should be e-mailed to Professor Finch (pf4595@aol.com) on/by April 15, 2016.

In addition to the selected portions of *Christ-Centered Preaching* that were required to be read prior to the classroom teaching, the remaining portions of Christ centered preaching must be read on/by April 15, 2016.
Third weekend: March 18-19 (Friday: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with 1 hr. lunch break)

Each student will be provided and expected to read Professor Finch’s manuscript, *The Story of Jesus Christ – God’s Son, Savior*, before this third weekend of classes. The manuscript will be provided to the students at no cost.

The nine hours allotted to teaching on Friday evening and Saturday will focus on a Christ-centered overview of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments which highlights eleven books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, Ezra and Nehemiah) and three New Testament books (Matthew, Acts and Revelation).
## MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Building upon the Introduction to Preaching (04PT506) course, students will be taught the fundamental components of expository preaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This course focuses particularly on the book of 1 John and the Gospel of John as a training ground for developing the components of expository preaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The student will be mentored within the framework of Reformed theology and the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>The writings of 1 John and the Gospel of John will strengthen the sanctification process within the student and promote a greater love for the Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The writings of the Apostle John are particularly suited for promoting a desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>To be winsomely reformed is to preach and teach in a manner that is keeping with the prophets, apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The centerpiece of Reformed Biblical worship is the proclamation of the Word of God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 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.

### Scripture

- 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.)

### Reformed Theology

- Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

### Sanctification

- Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

### Desire for Worldview

- Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

### Winsomely Reformed

- 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.)

### Preach

- Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

### Worship

- Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
| **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. | **Moderate** | One of the primary means of shepherding the flock is through the exposition of the Word of God. |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | **Moderate** | Fraternal relations between Bible believing and teaching denominations is vital to the Kingdom of God. |