

Communication II

Spring Semester 2020—Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta

Professor Aaron Menikoff

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Course Number: 04PT5150/1

Sessions (Tuesdays, 5:00–9:20)

One: February 4

Two: February 11

Three: February 18

Four: February 25

Five: March 10

Six: March 17

“The expository method of preaching is the most obvious and natural way of conveying to the hearers the import of the sacred volume. It is the very work for which a ministry was instituted, to interpret the Scriptures.”

--J. W. Alexander

“Our role as preachers and Bible teachers is to stand under the illuminating light of the words long ago set down by the Holy Spirit. Our job is to say today what God once said and nothing more. For in so doing, he still speaks.”

--David Helm

“One of the encouraging signs found among many young Christians today is a renewed appetite for expository preaching. By expository preaching I don’t mean one particular style or method of preaching, but a self-conscious, principled commitment to preaching in such a way that the Scripture itself is supplying the main theme, principle headings, and central application in our proclamation.”

--J. Ligon Duncan III

Course Description

Students preparing for a preaching ministry will study preaching with a focus on the Old Testament. Students will be evaluated on the basis of participation, reading comprehension, and the content and clarity of sermon outlines.

Course Objectives

- 1) To help each student appreciate the power of expository preaching.
- 2) To help each student grow in his ability to move from solid, biblical exegesis to a clear and compelling sermon, with a focus on the Old Testament
- 3) To help each student apply and illustrate biblical texts in the modern world.

Course Texts

- 1) David Helm, *Expositional Preaching: How We Speak God's Word Today* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014)
- 2) Timothy Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016)
- 3) Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999).
- 4) Optional: Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000)

Course Requirements/Assignments

- 1) Participation (20%) – Absences should be cleared with the professor prior the class. Full credit will be given to students who are punctual, present, and participating.
- 2) Reviews (40%) – Students are required to read and write a summary/review of each book. Each summary/review must be between 1,500 and 2,000 words long. Papers must be double spaced. Upload reviews to Canvas no later than **March 23**.
- 3) Sermon Outlines (40%) – Two sermon outlines will be prepared for this course. Each sermon outline must include a) an introduction which includes the main idea of the passage; b) a body which includes exegesis, application, illustration; c) a conclusion which drives home the main idea of your sermon. You will present (not preach) one sermon outline before the class. Both sermon outlines must be uploaded to Canvas. Your first outline is due the day of your class presentation. Your second outline is due **March 23**.

Acceptable Texts for Sermon Outline:

Genesis 3–11	Psalms 2
Exodus 32–34	Psalms 42
Leviticus 16	Song of Solomon 1:1–2:17
Judges 1:1–2:15	Isaiah 54
2 Samuel 24	Malachi 3:13–4:6
2 Kings 17	

Tentative Course Schedule (this is subject to change)

February 4

- Block One: Course Introduction
- Block Two: Personal Introductions
- Block Three: Lecture 1, “Why Can’t I Teach You How to Preach?”
- Block Four: Lecture 2, “Why is Preaching Crucial?”

February 11

- Block One: Lecture 3, “What Are Some Problems Preacher’s Face?”
- Block Two: Lecture 4, “What is the Purpose of a Sermon?”
- Block Three: Lecture 5, “What Does it Mean to Preach Christ?”
- Block Four: Lecture 6,

February 18

- Block One: Lecture 7, “Why is Preaching Best in the Church?”

Block Two: Lecture 8, “What Kind of Man is the Preacher?”
Block Three: Lecture 9, “How Do You Preach Law?”
Block Four: Presentations

February 25

Block One: Lecture 10, “How Do You Preach History?”
Block Two: Lecture 11, “How Do You Preach Wisdom Literature?”
Block Three: Lecture 12, “How Do You Preach Prophecy?”
Block Four: Presentations

March 10

Block One: Lecture 13, “How Do You Apply the Text I?”
Block Two: Lecture 14, “How Do You Apply the Text II?”
Block Three: Lecture 15, “How Do Illustrate Well?”
Block Four: Presentations

March 17

Block One: Lecture 16, “How Do Prepare a Sermon?”
Block Two: Lecture 17, “What About Weddings, Funerals, and One-Offs?”
Block Three: Lecture 18
Block Four: Presentations

Standard RTS 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)

RTS Grading Scale

A 97–100
A- 94–96

B+	91–93
B	88–90
B-	86–87
C+	83–85
C-	78–79
D+	75–77
D	72–74
D-	70–71
F	Below 70

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Comm II 04PT5150/1
 Professor: Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Spring 2020

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	A class on communication focused on the student's ability to accurately and effectively explain and apply God's Word
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.)	Moderate	Though not an exegesis course, each students is expected to come to each sermon with an accurate understanding of the passage
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The Reformed tradition serves as the doctrinal standard and expectation of this class
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	To the extent preaching is for sanctification, the student's demonstration of this is crucial
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Communication II is about applying the OT to all of life
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.)	Strong	Though non-Christians are not the target in preaching, students will be expected to communicate Scripture in a way that helpfully challenges unbelievers
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Strong	Preaching is at the heart of pastoral ministry