

Preaching Lab II

Spring Semester 2020—Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta

Professor Aaron Menikoff

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Course Number: 04PT5175/1

Sessions (Tuesdays, 5:00–9:20pm)

March 24

March 31

April 21

April 28

May 12

May 19

“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 preach sermons and be evaluated with careful attention given to the content, clarity, application, and delivery of each message.

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.
- 3) To help each student apply and illustrate biblical texts in the modern world.

Course Texts

- 1) Mark Dever & Greg Gilbert, *Preach: Theology Meetings Practice* (Nashville, Tenn.: B&H, 2012)
- 2) J. C. Ryle, *Simplicity in Preaching* (Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2010)

Course Requirements

- 1) **Participation (25%)** – Students are expected to attend each class. Much of the learning will take place as sermons are publicly evaluated. Therefore, attendance and participation are essential. Absences should be cleared with the professor prior the class. Full credit will be given to students who are punctual, present, and participating.
- 2) **Reading & Reviews (35%)** – Over the course of the semester, students are expected to read each book in its entirety. Students are required to write a review of each book. Reviews must be between 1,500 and 2,000 words. Reading and reviews (uploaded to Canvas) are due by **May 29**.
- 3) **Preaching (40%)** –
 - a. Depending on the size of the class, students will preach 2-5 messages for an audience of their peers and professor. Preaching assignments will be handed out once the size of the class has been established. Assignments are designed to work students through various genres of Scripture.
 - b. Before the delivery of each sermon, an outline or manuscript and a bibliography will be uploaded onto Canvas.
 - c. Depending upon the size of the class, sermons will be between 15 and 40 minutes in length.
 - d. Each sermon will be evaluated by the class. A sermon review form will be available in Canvas. Each student will be responsible for filling out an evaluation form.
 - e. Each sermon will be evaluated by the student who preached it.

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: Preaching Lab II – 04PT5175
 Professor: Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Spring 2020

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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	Focus of Preaching Lab is the verbal articulation of biblical truth
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.)	Strong	Though not an exegesis course, this course will focus on integrating all the other disciplines to the benefit of a congregation
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The Reformed tradition will guide preachers as they remain committed to orthodoxy
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Preaching is primarily for the sanctification of God's people
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	The application of Scripture to all of life is necessary in good preaching
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	Students will be taught to communicate biblical truth thoughtfully, sharply, and winsomely
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