Communication I Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Fall, 2022
Thursdays: 5:10-9:30 pm
8/25, 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

Instructor: Rev. Aaron Messner
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Course Objectives:

1. To understand the overarching mission of the church, and how preaching and teaching fits into and serves this larger mission.
2. To understand the daunting (dare I say, impossible) nature of the teacher/preacher's task, and the absolute dependence one must have on the supernatural content and power of the Ordinary Means of Grace (particularly for this course, the Word of God and Prayer) if one's teaching/preaching is to be truly fruitful.
3. To understand the need for the preacher/teacher to be continually affected and transformed by the Word that is taught/preached; being a person of continual repentance, faith in Christ, and new obedience.
4. To understand the fundamental nature of preaching and the calling on the preacher from the Scriptures.
5. To develop greater facility in studying the Bible, so that one can consistently ascertain the basic structure and primary emphasis(es) of a given Biblical text in its larger context.
6. To develop greater facility in seeing how Christ is proclaimed from every text in the New Testament.
7. To develop greater facility in preparing sermons in which the content and emphasis of the sermon is in conformity with the content and emphasis of the Biblical text, in which Christ is faithfully and organically preached from the text in question, and from which faithful and practical application of the text is made to the lives of the listener.
8. To help students take further steps in "finding their own voice" as a preacher and teacher by exploring various rhetorical styles and modes of presentation.
9. To develop greater facility in listening to sermons, both for spiritual nourishment and for pedagogical considerations.
10. To analyze other's reflections/instruction on preaching and determine the relative value and priority of such instruction.

Course Texts:

Preaching and Preachers, D. Martyn Lloyd Jones
Christ Centered Preaching, Bryan Chapell
2 Timothy, Paul

Course Schedule:

August 25: Course Introduction; The Preacher's Purpose, Challenges & Instruments

September 1: The Preacher's Task: Staying on the Line; Text and Framework; Proclamation & Contextualization; Student Expositions on 2 Timothy 1:1-7, 2 Timothy 1:8-18

September 8: The Preacher's Task: Stop, Look and Listen; Understanding and Discerning Structure in New Testament Texts; Student Expositions of 2 Timothy 2:1-7; 2:8-13

September 15: The Preacher's Task: Reading Texts in Context; Hearing the Melodic Line of Biblical Books; Student Expositions of 2 Timothy 2:14-19, 2:20-26

September 22: The Preacher's Task: Preaching Christ in all the Scriptures, Including the NT; Student Expositions of 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 2 Timothy 3:10-17

September 29: The Preacher's Task: Making Application, Rhetorical Organization, Illustration, Finding Your Own Voice; Student Expositions of 2 Timothy 4:1-8, 4:9-22

Course Assignments and Grade Structure:

50% Class Participation (Attendance, General Engagement, Expositions)
50% Final Writing Assignment. Due October 4. Answer the following question: "If you had a friend who was sensing a call to a preaching ministry, and you had to recommend only one of our course texts (Lloyd Jones or Chapell), which one would you recommend and why?" Paper should interact with both texts, pointing our key strengths and weakness of each work, and making an argument for why one particular work is the most beneficial "first book on preaching." (5 page limit).

RTS Grading Scale:

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
D 72-74
D- 70-71

Below 70 = F

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)

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Communication 1 PT5100/1
Professor: Rev. Aaron Messner
Campus: RTS Atlanta
Date: Fall 2021

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.*		**Rubric** ➢ Strong ➢ Moderate ➢ Minimal ➢ None	**Mini-Justification**
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	Every student will not only receive instruction on principles of Biblical exposition, but will engage in formal public exposition of Biblical passages before classmates and the instructor.
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	The heart of the course involves instruction on the nature of Scripture and proper techniques fo studying the Scripture so as to rightly ascertain its meaning
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The class will promote the WCF's view on the mission of the church and the necessity and sufficiency o the Ordinary Means of Grace
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The class will explicitly emphasize the need for the Ordinary Means o Grace to be working upon the preacher for his own sanctification as a necessary precondition for preaching the Word
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	The necessity and sufficiency of the Word of God stands at the heart of this class
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	The class is thoroughly taught from a Reformed perspective, yet without lots of Reformed "insider language." The emphasis is on

			being Biblical and Christ centered, not on being Reformed per se.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Strong	This is the heart of the class.