

Preaching Lab II

Spring Semester 2023—Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta

Professor Aaron Menikoff

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Course Number: 04PT524

Sessions: Tuesdays 5:10–9:30

March 14–May 9 ((no class Mar 21, Apr 4, and May 2))

“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)

- 3) Various articles TBD.

Course Requirements

- 1) **Participation (20%)** – 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.
- 2) **Reading & Reviews (20%)** – Over the course of the semester, students are expected to read each book in its entirety. Students are required to write a summary of each book. Summaries must be around 1,200 words. Reading and reviews (uploaded to Canvas) are due by **May 16**.
- 3) **Preaching (60%)** –
 - a. Students will preach approximately 2 messages for an audience of their peers and professor.
 - i. The length of the message will be determined based upon the size of the class.
 - ii. Each text must be from an OT passage, between one verse and a paragraph. The two messages must be from different genres of the OT.
 - iii. Before delivery of each sermon, an outline or manuscript must be uploaded onto Canvas.
 - iv. 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.
 - b. Each sermon is to include the following five components. Please note:
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Explanation of the context
 - iii. Explanation of the meaning
 - iv. Illustrations
 - v. Application
 - vi. Conclusion
 - c. Students must get advance approval for their text from the professor.
 - d. A preaching schedule will be created. Students unable to preach on the assigned date must switch dates with another student and notify the professor of the change in advance.

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
 Professor: Aaron Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Spring 2023

<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.	Strong	Focus on oral articulation skill of preaching
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	Exegetical focus required to be demonstrated in sermons
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed approach to preaching is presumed and emphasized
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Preaching the Word of God sanctifies as a means of grace
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Preaching forces connections to be made between God's Word and world
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	Sermon evaluation expected to be given a winsome, loving manner
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Focus of class
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Preaching should move believers to worship
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings;	Moderate	Preaching an act of shepherding

	and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.		
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussion as applicable