

Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington, D. C.
PT5150 Communication II

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates: July 17-20, 2023

Time: 9:00am-3:30pm

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: James Forsyth

Contact Info: jamesforsyth@cspc.net

Office Hours: By appointment via email

COURSE OVERVIEW

Catalog Description: A continuation of Communication I. This course continues to develop the skills required for interpreting and communicating the Bible. Special emphasis is given to sermon composition, including its constituent parts, as well as to the different ecclesial contexts of sermon delivery (e.g., wedding, funerals).

Objective: To equip students for a lifetime of faithful and fruitful communication in the context of the local church.

Format: Class time will combine lectures, small group discussion, and student presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ***Attendance and Participation (Pass/Fail).*** Show up with a full heart, ready to make the most of our time together.
2. ***Reading (20%).*** Read all of the books below and submit the reading report found on page 3 of this syllabus.
 - Arrington, Yancey. *Preaching the Moves People: How to get down the mountain of your messages with maximum impact.*
 - Bavinck, Herman. *On Preaching and Preachers.*
 - Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth: The gospel as tragedy, comedy, and fairy tale.*
 - Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture.*
 - Jeon, Paul. *On Preaching Better: Notes on improving your process.*
 - Keller, Timothy. *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism.*
 - Kim, Matthew. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the people who hear our sermons.*
 - Olyott, Stuart. *Ministering Like the Master: Three messages for today's preachers.*

3. **Paper (20%).** Write a paper to your current church that summarizes your philosophy of communication. Include discussion of your goals, approach, and preparation process. Not to exceed 2,000 words.
4. **Sample Preaching Schedule (20%).** Prepare a preaching schedule for one full calendar year. Include dates, series, texts, and titles for every week, paying attention to the flow of the ministry year.
5. **Presentation (20%).** Students will present a talk on the last day of class, incorporating learnings from the week. A full manuscript, not to exceed 3,000 words, must be submitted.
6. **Written Homilies (20%).** Students will prepare two homilies, one for a wedding and one for a funeral. For each homily, a full manuscript, not to exceed 1,000 words, must be submitted.

RTS Grading Scale: The seminary uses the following grading system:

A (97-100) 4.00 quality points
A- (94-96) 3.66
B+ (91-93) 3.33
B (88-90) 3.00
B- (86-87) 2.66
C+ (83-85) 2.33
C (80-82) 2.00
C- (78-79) 1.66
D+ (75-77) 1.33
D (72-74) 1.00
D- (70-71) 0.66
F (below 70) 0.00
I (incomplete) 0.00
W, WP (withdraw, 0.00 withdraw passing)
S (satisfactory) 0.00

Reading Report for PT5150 Communication II

Student's Name: _____

Percentage of required reading completed: _____

The book I found most helpful and why:

The book I found least helpful and why:

The book we didn't read but that I'd recommend to the whole class and why:

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: PT5150 Communication II

Professor: James Forsyth

Campus: Washington, DC

Date: Summer 2023

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	This class is designed to improve communication. Students must develop and express convictions in discussion, written work, and oral presentations.
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	This class equips students to study, apply, and communicate the Bible in the context of the local church.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	This class presupposes a reformed worldview and equips students to communicate rich doctrine in an intelligible way.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Students will wrestle with the reality that application flows from the inside-out.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Students will reflect on how to communicate God's Word in this cultural moment.
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	This class equips students to communicate truth in a disarming and engaging way.
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-Christians.	Strong	This class equips students for work in the local church.