

Communication II

Spring Semester 2024—Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta

Professor Aaron Menikoff

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Course Number: PT5150/1

Sessions: Fri/Sat (6-9pm/9-4pm)

1. February 2–3
2. February 16–17
3. March 15–16

“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) Jonathan I. Griffiths, *Preaching in the New Testament: An Exegetical and Biblical-Theological Study* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017).
- 2) David King, *Your Old Testament Sermon Needs to Get Saved* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 2021)
- 3) Timothy Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016)
- 4) Optional:
 - a. Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000)
 - b. Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999).

Course Requirements/Assignments

- 1) Participation (20%) – Clear absences with the professor prior the class. Full credit will be given to students who are punctual, present, and participating.
- 2) Book Summaries (40%) – Students are required to read and write a 1,200 word reflection on each book. Devote 600 words to the summary. Devote another 600 words to the impact the book should have on your own preaching ministry. Papers must be double spaced. Upload reviews to Canvas no later than **March 16**.
- 3) Sermon Outlines w/Devotional Presentation (40%) – Two sermon outlines will be prepared for this course. Each sermon outline must include the following elements:
 - i. introduction (main idea);
 - ii. body (main points) which demonstrate appropriate:
 1. exegesis;
 2. application;
 3. illustration; and
 - iii. conclusion (driving home the main idea)

You will likely present both sermon outlines in front of 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 either the day you present it or, at the latest, **March 16**.

Acceptable texts for sermon outlines:

Genesis 3–11	2 Kings 17
Genesis 12:1–9	Psalm 2
Exodus 15:1–18	Psalm 42
Exodus 32–34	Song of Solomon 1:1–2:17
Numbers 21:4–9	Ecclesiastes 1:1–2:17
Leviticus 16	Isaiah 6:1–13
Joshua 2	Isaiah 54
Judges 1:1–2:15	Ezekiel 10
2 Samuel 24	Malachi 3:13–4:6

Tentative Course Schedule

- Course Introduction
- Personal Introductions
- The Problem with *Teaching* Preaching
- The Sufficiency of Scripture in Preaching
- Three Enemies of Good Preaching (maybe)
- Preaching Christ—Scripture’s Storyline
- Preaching for the Church (maybe)
- Preaching Law
- Preaching History
- Preaching Wisdom
- Preaching Prophecy
- Example Sermon, Zephaniah 3:14–20
- Application and Illustration
- Sermon Preparation: Nuts & Bolts
- Weddings, Funerals, and One-Offs
- Gleanings from Assigned Reading

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
 Professor: Aaron Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Spring 2024

<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 of class
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	Aim is to deliver biblical truth in a bold, winsome, loving manner
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Emphasis is on preaching the Word
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