

Communication I (PT 5100)
Spring 2024 Thursday 6:00PM to 7:20PM
RTS New York City

Professor: Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey

TA: Rev. Jonathan Nason

Course Description

This course introduces the theological framework and basic skills required for interpreting and communicating the Bible within the context of the church's ministry (both formal and informal).

By the end of this course students will have learned and practiced some of the basic skills needed to move from text to sermon manuscript. The preparation of sermons cannot be reduced down to a formula. Reliance upon the Holy Spirit is paramount. The aim of this course is to develop the skills to pay close attention to what the Spirit has already given in the Scriptures, and to in turn be led by the Spirit in developing and delivering messages that proclaim Christ faithfully and powerfully.

Philosophy of Instruction

The course is highly participatory. Please plan to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. The course integrates theological, theoretical, and practical aims by organizing the semester around books of the Bible. Immersion in the same books of the Bible will deepen the discussion, create a richer textual context for thinking theologically, historically, and culturally about preaching, honing skills, writing and delivering sermons.

Out of class preparation likewise will have students immersed in Scripture to apply new methods to study God's Word. Students should plan accordingly so that they have time to apply the skills covered in the course to their assigned passages.

Required Readings

Adam, Peter. "Calvin's Preaching and Homiletic: Nine Engagements, Part I." *Churchman* 124, no. 3 (2010): 201–15. (Canvas)

———. "Calvin's Preaching and Homiletic: Nine Engagements, Part II." *Churchman* 124, no. 4 (2010): 331–42. (Canvas)

Augustine. *On Christian Teaching, In Four Books*. Christian Classics Ethereal Library. Accessed December 12, 2023. <https://ccel.org/ccel/augustine/doctrine/doctrine>. (Book IV only Canvas)

Bediako, Kwame. "Jesus in African Culture: A Ghanaian Perspective on Ancestors." *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* 32, no. 4 (2015): 195–201. (Canvas)

Charles, H. B. *On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Kim, Julius. *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: Design and Deliver Gospel-Centered Sermons*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2015.
Perkins, William. *Art of Prophesying*, 1592. (Canvas)

Reference/Recommended Readings (will be referenced in class)

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Third edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2018.
Kim, Matthew. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People who Hear Our Sermons*. Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 2017.
Osborne, Grant R., and Stephen B. Woodward. *Handbook for Bible Study*. Pbk. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1983. (Canvas)
Sanlon, Peter. *Augustine's Theology of Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.
Themelios Vol. 5, Issue 2 January 1980. Vol. 5, 1980. (Canvas)

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Worksheets on Assigned Passages	20%
Sermon Manuscripts	20%
500-750 word reflection papers on required readings	20%
Weekly attendance and participation	20%
Final Video Presentation	20%

(All readings and assignments are to be completed before the class in which they are listed on the syllabus.)

Part I: Introduction to A Process for Developing, Writing and Delivering Sermon

Class 1: A Reformed Theology and Practice of Preaching
Read: Kim Ch. 1-2

Class 2: The First Take to Initial Outline
Lecture: Developing the Sermon Proposition and Outline
Read: Kim Ch. 6-7 (Reference Osborne Ch. 2-4 as needed)
Watch: Key Words, Literary Analysis, Diagramming
Due: First Take to Initial Outline Worksheet for Luke 2:22-38

Class 3: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline
Lecture: From Homiletical Outline to Sermon Manuscript
Read: Kim Ch. 8-10, Conclusion
Due: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline Worksheet

Part II: Preaching Exodus

Class 4: Preaching Exodus: First Take to Initial Outline
Lecture: Theology and Structure of Exodus
Read: Kim Ch. 3-5, Charles, Part I
Due: First Take to Initial Outline Worksheet

Class 5: Preaching Exodus: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline

Lecture: Augustine's Preaching

Read: Charles, Parts II-III

Due: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline Worksheet

Class 6: Preaching Exodus: Writing the Sermon

Lecture: Illustrations

Read: Augustine, *On Christian Teaching*, Book IV (in Canvas)

Due: Sermon Manuscript of 3750 words maximum length (25 minutes). NOTE: points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum word count.

Part III: Preaching Hebrews

Class 7: Preaching Hebrews: First Take to Initial Outline

Lecture: Theology and Structure of Hebrews

Read: Johnson, *Him We Proclaim*, Chapter 7

Due: From First Take to Initial Outline Worksheet

Class 8: Preaching Hebrews: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline

Lecture: Applications

Read: Bediako, "Jesus in African Culture: A Ghanaian Perspective on Ancestors;" (Canvas)

Adam, "Calvin's Preaching and Homiletic: Nine Engagements, Part I" (Canvas)

Due: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline Worksheet

Class 9: Preaching Hebrews: Writing the Sermon

Lecture: Introductions, Conclusions, Transitions

Read: Adam, "Calvin's Preaching and Homiletic: Nine Engagements, Part II" (Canvas)

Due: Sermon Manuscript of 3750 words maximum length (25 minutes). NOTE: points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum word count.

Part IV: Preaching the Gospel of John

Class 10: Preaching Revelation: First Take to Initial Outline

Lecture: Theology and Structure of John's Gospel

Read: Perkins, *The Art of Prophesying*

Due: From First Take to Initial Outline Worksheet

Class 11: Preaching John: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline

Lecture: Preaching with Cultural Intelligence

Due: From Deeper Study to Revised Outline Worksheet

Class 12: Preaching John: Writing the Sermon

Lecture: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Text

Due: Sermon Manuscript of 3750 words maximum length (25 minutes). NOTE: points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum word count.

Part IV: Principles of Sermon Delivery

We will dedicate an entire day to discussing principles of sermon delivery. Students will then record a delivery of one of their manuscripts, either before a group or privately, and upload it to Canvas for feedback from the professor.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<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.	Strong	Students will write reflection papers and sermon manuscripts.
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.)	Moderate	Significant emphasis on English Bible exegetical exegesis, hermeneutics, and application.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed theology of preaching will inform the discussion. The timeless contributions of Calvin and Perkins will be emphasized as well.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Doctrines of Grace will be centered throughout the course.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Students will demonstrate an ability to take every thought captive to Christ in their 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 develop messages that are winsomely Reformed.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	This is the purpose of the course.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Preaching as an element of worship will be emphasized.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Students will be encouraged to think carefully about the cultures, capacities and pastoral burdens of their hearers as they prepare sermons and messages.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Particular attention is given to understanding how our cultural context influences how we may preach a text.

