

PREACHING FROM THE GOSPELS
DM 8205
Syllabus
Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.
Summer 2024
RTS Charlotte

[Please note: This is the “mini-syllabus.” The “mega-syllabus” with class-lecture notes, annotated bibliographies, etc. will eventually be available to be downloaded from “Canvas.” The “mega-syllabus” will be needed for the first day of class.]

Dates:

- * Classes are July 8–12, 2024, Monday (1:00 – 6:00), Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday (9:00-5:00), and Friday (9:00-1:00).
- * Some readings/summaries are due by July 8, 2024 so that we may discuss them in class.
- * The remainder of readings/summaries and the paper are due by October 30, 2024.

Course Description:

This course will include an overview of the content and theological emphases of each Gospel, various hermeneutical issues related to interpreting and preaching the Gospels, and strategies for preaching through a Gospel.

Trinity Psalter: Words-Only Edition

Each morning and afternoon class-periods will begin by singing from the *Trinity Psalter*. Please bring your own copy. [Trinity Psalter : Words-Only Psalter: Jim Scott: 9781884527074: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781884527074)

Reading/Summary Requirements:

- * Must read 100% of each assignment to get credit. With each reading, excepting the Bible reading, provide a two-page summary of the usefulness (or lack of it) of aspects of the book for *you* (not a summary of book) and a statement that you read 100% of that assignment. Feel free to put all of the reading summaries due by July 8 in one document, and the remainder in another. For the Bible reading, I will ask you to sign in class a statement as to whether you read 100% or not.

Due by July 8, 2024:

- * The biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 - * *Not* have you read them in your lifetime!, but have you read them specifically since you decided to take this course?

* William Perkins. *The Art of Prophesying*. Original 1592. Available from multiple publishers. (Often included together with another short book, *The Calling of the Ministry*. Only have to read *The Art of Prophesying*.)

* Perkins is a famous, early Puritan (1558-1602). (“Prophesying” is Perkins’ term for preaching.) Cara assumes that students have read many modern books on preaching, and it may aid us to get a historical perspective from Perkins. Be prepared to discuss (“pros and cons”) in class.

* Michael J. Kruger, ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016.

* This is a multi-authored book by RTS profs. Read the following chapters: “Matthew,” “Mark,” “Luke,” “John,” “The Synoptic Problem,” and “The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament: Trusting the New Testament’s Hermeneutics.”

* Vern S. Poythress. *The Miracles of Jesus: How the Savior’s Mighty Acts Serve as Signs of Redemption*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016.

* Poythress has been a prof at Westminster Theological Seminary for many years and is still teaching a few courses at WTS. This book concentrates on applying the “meaning” of Christ’s miracles for today. The first third of the book gives his theology/meaning/application of miracles relative to all the Gospels. The second two-thirds applies his method to the specific miracles in Matthew. Be prepared to discuss (“pros and cons”) in class.

* Peter J. Williams. *Can We Trust the Gospels?* Crossway: Wheaton, 2018.

Popular level book by first-class conservative scholar. Useful for apologetic “factoids” to defend the historicity of the Gospels. Uses several of Bauckham’s influential arguments (Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. See Cara’s review of Bauckham, <https://journal.rts.edu/review/jesus-and-the-eyewitnesses-the-gospels-as-eyewitness-testimony/>). Be prepared to discuss (“pros and cons”) in class.

* Due by October 30, 2024:

* Thomas R. Schreiner. *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

* Schreiner is a conservative Reformed Baptist who teaches at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Only read chapters: “Introduction,” 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, and “Appendix: Reflections on New Testament Theology.”

* Geerhardus Vos. *The Teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church*. Original 1903. Available from multiple publishers.

* Vos was a famous prof at Princeton Seminary and “father” of the Reformed redemptive-historical movement.

* Craig L. Blomberg. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2d. ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012. (First edition of 1990 is fine for assignment.)

* Blomberg is a well-known evangelical in biblical studies and a prof at Denver Seminary. Best book on parables.

* Richard B. Hays. *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.

* Hays is a famous critical scholar, who is an emeritus prof at Duke Divinity School. This book has relatively conservative conclusions that dovetail with conservative Reformed views. This will be an influential book in scholarly circles whether one agrees with Hays or not. See Cara’s review of book, <http://journal.rts.edu/review/echoes-scripture-gospels/> .

Paper Requirements:

* Twenty-to-thirty page academic-paper on any aspect of the Gospels that approximates a section of a DMin project. That is, it may be historically, exegetically, or hermeneutically oriented.

* Format is to match general DMin project requirements. Primarily, paper must follow Turabian format. Useful info at <http://rts.libguides.com/DMin-resources> and *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*, 2d ed. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014).

Grading:

* 10% for class participation (including singing!).

* 20% for readings and two-page summaries that are due July 19. Bring summaries to class.

* 20% for readings and two-page summaries that are due October 30.

* 50% for academic paper that is due October 30.

DMin SLOs Chart

Course: Preaching from the Gospels (DMin)

Professor: Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.

Campus: RTS Charlotte

Date: Summer 2024

<u>DMin Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the DMin 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 DMin outcomes.</i> <u>NOTE:</u> DMin Emphases are: 1. Reformed Expository Preaching (REP), and 2. Reformed Theology and Ministry (RTM)		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Biblical/Theological Foundations:	Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)	Strong	Significant number of course lectures and readings relate to original meaning of Gospels.
Historical/Contemporary Practices:	Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.	Strong	Historical: Perkins and Vos books. Contemporary: Emphasis on modern meaning of Gospels. Hays and critical scholarship.
Integration:	Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.	Moderate	Academic paper may relate to this. Preaching implications partially relate to contemporary setting.
Sanctification:	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Psalter singing. Any exegesis of Bible leads to some level of sanctification.
Hermeneutical/Homiletical Analysis	Demonstrates ability to interpret a text and apply homiletical principles to the text.	Strong	Large lecture emphasis on hermeneutics. Poythress and Blomberg readings to hermeneutics of miracles and parables. Class discussion on sermon implications.