

**SYLLABUS FOR PT5125 HOMILETICS/PREACHING LAB I**

**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - CHARLOTTE  
SUMMER 2025**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides actual preaching opportunities in order to develop expository preaching skills. The student will be required to preach two expository sermons, a funeral homily and an evangelistic homily as well as give a public reading of an assigned Scripture lesson.

Prerequisites: Communication I

**Course Objectives**

- 1) To develop and grow in the ability to preach expository sermons
- 2) To develop good pulpit presence and delivery
- 3) To demonstrate the ability to produce good structure in sermons
- 4) To strengthen the use of the original languages in sermon preparation
- 5) To reinforce how the message of the Bible is relevant to people's lives as a significant part of preaching
- 6) To practice reading a portion of Scripture with good diction

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

The student must read John Broadus, *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* (4<sup>th</sup> edition).

**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

**I. Class attendance and discussion**

You will be expected to attend every class in order to participate in your classmates' sermon experience and evaluation. Unexcused absences will affect your final grade adversely. Please be punctual.

**II. Sermons**

- A. First Sermon: the student will be *assigned* a specific passage from Philippians to preach an expository sermon of no more than 25 minutes. You must wear a coat and tie for both sermons. Besides preaching the text the student will turn in the following:

1. An Outline consisting of the Proposition, the Main Points, and each transition fully written.

2. A summary of your work on the Greek, including how the Greek helped you understand the text better. It is not expected that the student will do a full exegesis of the Greek, but key verses or key words should be examined. This is not required if the student does not know Greek.
- B. Second Sermon: the student will be assigned a specific text from the book of Psalms. Besides preaching the text the student will turn in the following:
1. An Outline consisting of the Proposition, the Main Points, and each transition fully written.
  2. A summary of your work on the Hebrew, including how the Hebrew helped you understand the text better. It is not expected that the student will do a full exegesis of the Hebrew, but key verses or key words should be examined. This is not required if the student does not know Hebrew.
- C. Each student will preach a **funeral homily** of no more than 10 minutes in length. You will be preaching this homily in your church for one of your church members. Keep in mind that you will be desirous of offering comfort to the grieving but also be aware that it is likely there will be a number of unbelievers in attendance. Students will be assigned one of the following scenarios:
1. An older man, who has been a member of your church for decades, has died. He came consistently to morning worship but rarely attended at other times. Although friendly and respectful, he never demonstrated great interest in the things of God. His wife is one of your most-devout members. The children and grandchildren all live in other places. You must **not** “preach him into heaven.”
  2. A young husband and father in your church, who bore much fruit for the Kingdom and led an exemplary Christian life, has been killed in a workplace tragedy. He leaves behind his wife and two young children.
- D. The student will preach an **evangelistic homily** that should exemplify the following characteristics: a) makes contact with the audience quickly; b) is unabashed in seeking to persuade people to come to Christ; c) keeps things simple; and d) is clear on the sinner's need so it can be shown how Christ meets that need. The student may choose his own text for this homily. The time allotted for this sermon will be 5 minutes.

### III. Evaluation of sermons

- A. The student will be evaluated by the professor and by fellow students through the use of an evaluation form.
- B. The student will watch the video of the first sermon and write a short paragraph of what he learned from watching the video. Any observation can be included here but the focus should be on sermon delivery.

#### IV. Oral Scripture Reading

Each student will be assigned a narrative portion of Scripture from 2 Chronicles to read orally. Students will be evaluated on clarity, emphasis and tempo in reading. Students may choose which translation they will use for the reading, but if the student's choice is not the ESV, he must inform the instructor by email of his selection **no later than Monday of the week of this assignment. Also, the student must begin and end his reading with concise introductory and concluding phrases (this topic will be addressed briefly the first day of class).**

#### V. Grades

First Sermon	25%
Second Sermon	25%
Funeral Homily	15%
Evangelistic Homily	15%
Student Evaluations	10%
Reading/Sermon video	10%

**Note:** RTS affirms that local churches, denominational structures, parachurch organizations, educational institutions, and mission agencies present many strategic ministry and leadership opportunities where preparation through the M. Div. degree can be particularly helpful for women and other non-ministerial students. While RTS limits the MDiv preaching labs to male students, women in the MDiv degree program can either (a) take elective courses in the place of the two preaching labs, or (b) take a directed study in general communications, which may involve women or other non-ministerial students attending a section of the preaching lab with similar but alternative assignments.

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Preaching Lab (PT5125)  
 Professor: Joseph E. Rolison  
 Campus: Charlotte  
 Date: Summer 2025

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <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>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>  <b>Strong</b> <b>Moderate</b> <b>Minimal</b> <b>None</b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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	Student must integrate hermeneutics, biblical exposition, theological themes, historical information, cultural familiarity, and verbal skills in communicating the message of Scripture
<b>Scripture</b>	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	Student must understand the original meaning of Scripture through the use of the original language and be able to apply it in preaching the text
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Texts have theological messages that must be communicated to God's people
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Preaching itself is a sanctifying process that should remind the student of complete dependence on God
<b>Worldview</b>	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.	Minimal	This is one of the goals of preaching and so should be a desire of the preacher
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.)	Minimal	Emphasizes a winsome approach to preaching, including the presentation of the truth of the gospel and the word of God to those who may not agree
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	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	Moderate	Application of the preached word is a way of shepherding the flock and engaging the church with the world

	congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.		
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