

COURSE SYLLABUS – PT5175  
Reformed Theological Seminary  
Jackson, Mississippi

PREACHING LAB II  
Spring 2026

Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min.

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Time: Wednesday, 1-4

Class Hours: 2

Syllabus Revised: October 13, 2025

**Prerequisites: PT506 or PT5250**

COURSE PURPOSE

Taught in conjunction with Communication, Preaching Lab offers students opportunities to preach sermons.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Preach, preach, preach!

COURSE TEXT (REQUIRED)

Garretson, James A. *An Able and Faithful Ministry: Samuel Miller and the Pastoral Office*. Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**1. ATTENDANCE** — Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance is taken at each class. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the TA in advance. Each unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by a full letter grade. In the event of absence, written work, including quizzes, must still be submitted by their due dates.

**2. SUBMISSIONS AND GRADES.**

Sermon Outlines and Preaching Evaluation (75%).

The student will submit a homiletical outline *via Canvas* before class on the date he is scheduled to preach. Late outlines will result in a 25-point reduction in your sermon grade. You must also submit a hard copy to the professor as you go into the pulpit.

*At the end of your outline, identify commentaries and other aids you consulted. You must consult at least three commentaries, two of which must be technical commentaries. Please use Turabian formatting to identify your sources. Failure to attach commentary list will result in an automatic 10-point grade reduction.*

*You will preach three (3) sermons from New Testament texts, one from each of the following: the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles. You may determine the order in which you preach from these texts.*

(c) Presentation on the life of James A. Garretson from *An Able and Faithful Ministry* (25%).

You will submit a *five (5) page presentation* on Samuel Miller. This written presentation should give a very brief overview of his life and work, and practical lessons obtained from your reading that can be used in pastoral ministry and preaching. Brief quotations are permitted but should be used sparingly. Block quotations are forbidden. This presentation is not a book review. I am interested in how you would introduce this man to your congregation, perhaps in a Sunday School class.

**Turabian Formatting (15 pts):** The paper is properly formatted (title page, section headings, margins, footnotes,

quotations, etc.) according to Turabian. All presentations must be typed double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and include page numbers. *A 10-point grade reduction will be applied to presentations that are not properly formatted.*

**Depth of Paper (70 pts):** Your paper must demonstrate clear and accessible communication, careful reading, and creativity.

**Presentation of Paper (15 pts):** Your paper must reflect good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and clarity of expression, and be written in an appropriate academic style.

**Reading Report.** *On your paper you will report if you have read the book in its entirety. Failure to read the entire book will result in a 25-point grade reduction.*

Your presentations must be posted on Canvas in pdf format by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on May 3. Do not e-mail your papers to the TA or instructor.

### 3. DUE DATE EXTENSION POLICY

There will be no extensions granted for any assignments. You receive your full schedule of assignments well before they are due, and you must plan accordingly. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, late submissions will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per day late.

**4. PREACHING SCHEDULE.** By January 20 the Teaching Assistant will e-mail those students who have signed up for the class with a preaching schedule for the first two weeks. After the class begins, he will e-mail the class with a complete schedule for the rest of the semester (giving late students time to sign up and be included in the schedule). The schedule will only be revised because of sickness, emergency, or unavoidable travel. If you are unable to preach on the dates assigned to you, you are responsible to find a replacement and notify the Teaching Assistant and give the reason for the rescheduling. **Busy schedules are not a valid reason for changing your preaching date.** *If you are unprepared to speak, you will be assigned another date to preach and receive a 25-point reduction in your sermon grade.*

**Class does not meet on March 11.**

### 5. GRADING SCALE -

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| 97-100% | A  |
| 94-96%  | A- |
| 91-93%  | B+ |
| 88-90%  | B  |
| 86-87%  | B- |
| 83-85%  | C+ |
| 80-82%  | C  |
| 78-79%  | C- |
| 75-77%  | D+ |
| 72-74%  | D  |
| 70-71%  | D- |
| 0-69%   | F  |

### 6. PREACHING YOUR SERMONS –

- (a) Your sermon must not exceed 20 minutes.
- (b) You must wear suit and tie when you preach.
- (c) For two sermons: You may bring your 150-word homiletical outline into the pulpit.
- (e) For one of your three sermons: You will preach without notes. Please notify Dr. Wingard as you go into the pulpit when you are about to preach without notes.

### 7. ETIQUETTE – Gentlemen are not to wear hats in the classroom.

**8. CANVAS** – Canvas is a tool that will be used to track student assignments and grades during the course of the semester. Students can access Canvas at <https://rts.instructure.com>. Students should check Canvas often, as announcements and updates to the syllabus will be posted there. Students should not expect e-mail updates for the class. Rather, any announcements (such as modifications to the syllabus) will be posted on Canvas.

**9. ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

**10. DISCLAIMER** - The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester.

**11. OFFICE HOURS** – Monday through Thursday, by appointment or whenever my office door is open. My office is in the Dean Center attic.

**12. COMMUNICATION 2** – This course is taken in conjunction with Communication 2 (PT5150).

| <b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b><br><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><br><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><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul> | <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  | All oral and written work must demonstrate good style, grammar, and syntax.                   |
| <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 sermons must demonstrate solid scriptural exegesis.                                   |
| <b>Reformed Theology</b>  | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.  | Strong  | Student papers and sermons will demonstrate a solid grasp of Reformed Theology.               |
| <b>Sanctification</b>   | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.  | Moderate  | Student will study the connection between personal holiness and powerful sermons.             |
| <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   | Students will address contemporary issues in a manner informed by scripture.                  |
| <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.)   | Strong  | Student sermons will appeal to the conscience while showing grace and sympathy to worshipers. |

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|--------------------------|--|--------|--|
| <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 congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | Students must use language that is accessible to ordinary congregations. |
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## READINGS IN PREACHING AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY

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- Dallimore, Arnold. *Spurgeon: A New Biography*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1985.
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- Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh: How to preach from Old Testament narrative texts*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2006.
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