

Syllabus
Winter 2026
Communication II - 2.00 Hours
January 26 - 27, 2022
Class Hours 8a – 9p
Reformed Theological Seminary – Houston
Instructor: Rev. Richard Brantley Harris
rharris@cepc.org

Course Description

This course addresses total communication for pastors with an emphasis on preaching philosophy and style, textual exposition, and sermon structure. Written and oral, verbal and nonverbal communications are included. This course builds on the material of Communications I and seeks to develop a methodology of how to preach narrative texts and how to preach imperative laden texts. Instruction will be given on preaching weddings and funerals.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students construct a Biblical theology of preaching and a basic understanding of sermon construction for Lord's Day worship, weddings, and funerals.

Course Objectives

- To foster confidence in the preached Word to save, sanctify, and comfort God's elect.
- To emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical preaching
- To develop students in understanding the distinct nature of expository preaching
- To develop students in the basic construction of sermons for Lord's Day worship, weddings, and funerals
- To develop students in basic pulpit etiquette and technique

Course Requirements

1. The student is required to read the following books. A reading report is due to me by Feb 1, 2022 regarding the percentage of the reading the student has completed.
 - a. Dale Ralph Davis, *The Word Became Fresh*
 - b. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*
 - c. Francis James Grimke, *Meditations on Preaching*
 - d. Sinclair B Ferguson, *Some Pastors and Teachers: Reflecting a Biblical Vision of What Every Minister is Called to Be* (pages 627 – 776)
 - e. J.C. Ryle, *Simplicity in Preaching*
 - f. H.B. Charles, Jr., *On Preaching*
 - g. David Strain, *Expository Preaching*
 - h. Donald Macleod, *Compel Them to Come In*
2. The student is required to write a book review for each book (except Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*). The book review should be no more than two pages and include

four sections: an overview of the book, a critique of the book, application from the book, and the best quote from the book. The book reviews will be due at various times throughout the semester.

3. The student will prepare 2 full sermon manuscripts of assigned passages for Lord's Day worship, 1 sermon manuscript for a wedding, and 1 sermon manuscript for a funeral. The 4 sermon manuscripts will demonstrate that the student has grasped the various parts of a sermon from Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*. All of these manuscripts can be used to preach sermons in my Preaching Lab 2 class.

All assignments due February 20.

Grading

Percentage of Completed Assigned Reading 10%

Book Reviews 30%

Sermon manuscripts 50%

In Class Participation 10%