

SYLLABUS FOR - PREACHING LABORATORY 2
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – HOUSTON

January 28 – 29, 2026

Rev. Richard Harris

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Class Hours 8a – 9p

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides actual preaching opportunities in order to continue develop expository preaching skills. The student will be required to preach 2 expository sermons and either a wedding sermon or a funeral sermon.

Prerequisites: Communication I, Preaching Lab I, and Communication II

Course Objectives:

1. To further develop and grow in the ability to preach expository sermons.
2. To further develop good pulpit presence and delivery.
3. To demonstrate the ability to produce good structure in sermons.
4. To reinforce how the message of the Bible is relevant to people's lives as a significant part of preaching.
5. To practice reading a portion of Scripture with good diction.
6. To be able to preach a sermon for a wedding and for a funeral.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

NONE

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 adversely affect your final grade. Please be on time.

II. Sermons

- A. First sermon: The student will be *assigned* a specific passage from 1st or 2nd Samuel to preach an expository sermon of no more than 30 minutes. Besides preaching the text, the student will turn in a full sermon manuscript with clearly distinguished main points. The student may use the same sermon manuscript written for my Communication II class.

- B. Second sermon: The student will be *assigned* a specific passage from 1st or 2nd Timothy to preach an expository sermon of no more than 30 minutes. Besides preaching the text, the student will turn in a full manuscript with clearly distinguished main points. The student may use the same sermon manuscript written for my Communication II class.
- C. Wedding sermon: The student will preach a 10 – 15 minute sermon written for a wedding, explaining the significance of a Christian marriage or a marriage based on Christ and/or Biblical principles. Besides preaching the text, the student will turn in a full manuscript. The student may use the same sermon manuscript written for my Communication II class.

Or

Funeral sermon: The student will preach a 15 – 20 minute sermon written for a funeral. Besides preaching the text, the student will turn in a full manuscript. The student may use the same sermon manuscript written for my Communication II class.

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 his sermons and write a short paragraph for each of what he learned from watching the video. Any observation can be included here, but the focus should be on sermon delivery.

All assignments due February 20.

IV. Grades

First Sermon	30%
Second Sermon	30%
Wedding/Funeral Sermon	20%
Sermon Notes & Video Review	10%
Class Participation	10%

SERMON EVALUATION FORM

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Sermon Text: _____

Grade: _____

1. Did the preacher submit a full manuscript? (Failure to submit a full sermon manuscript will result in a 25-point grade reduction.)
2. Did the preacher meet the dress requirements?
3. Does the sermon contain an identifiable structure (introduction, main points, transitions, applications, illustrations, and conclusion)?
4. Is the exposition faithful to the text? Does the preacher carefully explain the text? Is there exegetical support for his points?
5. Do the illustrations illumine the point being made, or do they confuse, seem irrelevant, or take on a life of their own? Are the illustrations believable? Do they work?
6. Are there applications of Scripture to the life of the believer? Is there a clear connection between the application and the text? Are the applications realistic and grounded in the gospel? Are moral appeals harsh, or are they sensitive and gracious and aware of the believer's dependence on the Holy Spirit? Is the preacher sympathetic to the struggles and temptations and failings of the believer? Is he proclaiming Christ as the believer's all-sufficient Savior?
7. Is the preacher serious, earnest, and well prepared? Did he read the Scripture well and reverently?
8. Are there any concerns about sermon delivery (eye contact, gestures, volume, cadence, etc.)?
9. Did the preacher stay within his time limit?

Additional comments: