

Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington, DC

PT5175-W1/Preaching Lab II

Course Syllabus – Spring 2026
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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Course Description:

This course provides opportunities for students to develop expository preaching skills in a variety of formats. The student will be required to preach at least two expository sermons, an extemporaneous evangelistic message, and a funeral homily.

Course Objectives:

- To grow in the ability to create and delivery effective expository messages.
- To develop a personal style of communication and delivery.
- To demonstrate the ability to structure a message and apply it skillfully to the lives of the listeners.
- To grow in the ability to give and receive godly criticism, an essential skill for gospel ministry.

Required Textbook:

None. This class will be focused on implementing the readings completed in Communications II.

Requirements:

- Attendance – All students are required to attend each class. If you must miss a class, please advise me in advance via email.
- Preaching in class – students will be required to preach in class several times. ***The number, length, and subject of each message will be determined once the class enrollment is finalized.*** Students will receive the preaching schedule on the first day of class (Lord willing). Note: students should provide the instructor with a copy of whatever notes/manuscript they take with them into the pulpit.
 - **Sermon #1** – a 30 minute message on a Lukan parable of your choice.
 - **Sermon #2** – a 30 minute message on any text of your choice.
 - **Sermon # 3** – a 30 minute message on a Psalm of your choice.
 - **Sermon #4** – a 30 minute message on any text of your choice.
 - **Sermon #5** – a 30 minute message on an OT narrative of your choice.
 - **Sermon #6** – a 30 minute message on any text of your choice.

- **Sermon #7** – a 10-minute funeral homily for (choose one):
 - an elderly member of your church who died after a long battle with dementia.
 - the child of members of your church. Growing up, he seemed serious about the things of the Lord. When he went to college three years ago, he seems to have walked away from his faith. He died of a drug overdose.
 - the father of a member of your church. All of the family members (with the exception of the one who is a member of your church) are nominal Christians and have no engagement with any other church but yours.
- Evaluations – each student will turn in an evaluation sheet (provided in class) for each message preached in class.
- Video reviews – each student will record their messages and watch them with his wife (if married) or a friend. He will then write a one-page summary, due at the beginning of the next class meeting.
- Sermon comparison paper (due by May 6th) – each student will watch or listen to a sermon preached by another preacher on the same passage as their in-class Lukan parable sermon. He will then write a paper (roughly 2,500 words) comparing his sermon to that of the other preacher and drawing out any lessons that can be applied in his preaching going forward.

Grading:

- In-class preaching: 70%
- Evaluations of other students – 10%
- Video reviews – 10%
- Sermon comparison paper – 10%

Missing, incomplete, or late assignments will be marked down. Assignments will be graded in light of the school's grading scale:

- A** (97-100)
- A-** (94-96)
- B+** (91-93)
- B** (88-90)
- B-** (86-87)
- C+** (83-85)
- C** (80-82)

- C-** (78-79)
- D+** (75-77)
- D** (72-74)
- D-** (70-71)
- F** (below 70)

Tentative Class Schedule:

The class will run from February 4th to May 6th. There will be no class on March 11 and May 6th.

February 4 – Introduction

February 11 – Lukan parables

February 18 – Lukan parables

February 25 – Preacher’s Choice

March 4 – Preacher’s Choice

March 11 – No Class – Reading Week

March 18 – Psalms

March 25 – Psalms

April 3 – Preacher’s Choice

April 10 – Preacher’s Choice

April 17 – OT Narrative

April 24 – OT Narrative

May 1 – Funeral sermons (all)

May 6 – No class

* **Sermon comparison paper due.**

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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 Professor: Mike McKinley
 Campus: Washington, DC
 Date: Spring 2025

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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. *As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	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	The class will contribute to the student's ability to articulate the gospel message in contextually sensitive ways.
Scripture	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	Faith comes from hearing the word of God. Preaching normally ought to arise from the exposition of Biblical texts. Students will spend extended time considering and applying passages of the Bible.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The course will emphasize a Reformed understanding of the gospel call, God's sovereignty, and the role of the proclamation of God's Word in the growth of God's people and the salvation of sinners.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	A life of personal holiness and dependence on God

			is essential for the task of preaching.
Worldview	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.	Strong	Preaching calls its hearers to faith in and conformity to God's Word.
Winsomely Reformed	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	Those who hold to a high view of God's sovereignty ought to be the most joyful and happy preachers. What is more winsome than proclaiming good news?
Pastoral Ministry	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	Preaching is the primary means for a pastor to feed God's flock.