

SYLLABUS FOR PT 5175 HOMILETICS/PREACHING LAB II
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - CHARLOTTE
SPRING 2026
RICHARD P. BELCHER, JR.
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TUESDAYS: 1 PM – 5 PM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides preaching opportunities to continue to develop exegetical and preaching skills. The student will be required to preach 2 expository sermons from an OT and NT narrative text, a baptism homily and a wedding homily.

Course Objectives

- 1) To get further practice in expository preaching through the preaching of two narrative texts.
- 2) To strengthen the use of the original languages in sermon preparation.
- 3) To reinforce how the message of the Bible is relevant to people's lives as a significant part of preaching.
- 4) To present a baptism homily as if you are the minister performing the baptism.
- 5) To present a wedding homily as if in a wedding standing before the couple.
- 6) To reinforce good pulpit presence and delivery.
- 7) To practice reading a large portion of Scripture with good diction.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The student must read a book on preaching that will be determined the first day of class.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

I. Class attendance and discussion

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

II. Sermons

- A. Narrative Exposition: The student will be *assigned* a specific narrative passage from the book of Judges to preach an expository sermon of 25 minutes. The clock starts after you have read your text and prayed. Besides preaching the text the student will turn in the following:
 1. An Outline consisting of the Proposition, the Main Points, and the Transitional Statements.
 2. A paragraph 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.
- B. The second sermon will be assigned from the Gospel of Mark. Besides preaching the text the student will turn in the following:
 1. An Outline consisting of the Proposition, the Main Points, and the Transitional Statements.

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.
- C. Wedding homily: The student will preach a homily appropriate for a marriage ceremony, explaining the significance of a Christian marriage or a marriage based on Christ and/or Biblical principles. The homily will not be delivered behind the pulpit. Time allotted for this homily will be 10 minutes.
- D. The student will preach a baptism homily that highlights the doctrinal significance of baptism while celebrating the joy this sacrament brings to the candidate, the family and the church family. The student can choose his own text for this homily. Time allotted for this homily will be 8 minutes.

III. Evaluation of sermons

- A. The student will be evaluated by the professor and by fellow students using an evaluation form.
- B. The student will watch the video of the Judges sermon and write a short paragraph of what he learned from watching the video (think of three areas of improvement). Any observation can be included here but the focus should be on sermon delivery.

IV. Oral Scripture Reading

Since we are preaching from narrative texts, part of the sermon will be to read the narrative text, and this will give the student practice in the oral reading of Scripture. No actual grade will be given but an obviously poor job will potentially adversely affect the student's final grade.

V. Grades

Judges Sermon	30%
Mark Sermon	25%
Wedding Homily	15%
Baptism Homily	15%
Student Evaluations	10%
Reading/Judges video	05%

Extensions Policy for Assignments: In extenuating circumstances, a deadline extension of **up to one week** may be granted at the discretion of the professor. Requests for extensions of **more than one week** must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration by the Academic Dean in consultation with the professor. Extensions are granted only for significant emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, and a grade penalty may be applied. *All extension requests must be made **prior to the assignment deadline**.* No retrospective extensions will be granted.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Preaching Lab 2

Professor: Richard P. Belcher, Jr.

Campus: Charlotte

Date: November 2025

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
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	student must integrate hermeneutics, biblical exposition, theological themes, historical information, cultural familiarity, and verbal skills in communicating the message of Scripture
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	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
Reformed Theology	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
Sanctification	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
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.	Minimal	this is one of the goals of preaching and so should be a desire of the preacher
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.)	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
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	application of the preached word is a way of shepherding the flock and engaging the church with the world