

PT5175 - Communication Lab II
Course Syllabus, Spring 2026 — RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- Two credit hours
- Tuesdays 1:00–5:00pm
- Course Description: *A practicum-style course focused on gaining experience delivering expository sermons/lessons.*

2. Instructor Information

- Gregory R. Lanier, Ph.D.
Professor of New Testament (RTS-Orlando) and Academic Dean (RTS-Global)
Associate Pastor (Part-time) at River Oaks Presbyterian Church
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3. Objectives

- To gain greater understanding of and experience in delivering expository sermons/lessons from the Old and New Testaments
- To grow in one's confidence and self-awareness in preaching/teaching
- To increase in desire to deliver Christ-honoring sermons/lessons to God's people
- To gain experience and competence in developing and preaching/teaching

4. Required Texts

- Each student will select one book from a list to be provided in Canvas, from which at least 200 pages must be read during the course of the semester. *The book must be one which you have not read before.*
- Students may propose a different book, which must be approved by the instructor.

5. Course Assignments

- **Expository Sermons/Lessons**
 - Overview
 - The primary focus of the course is for each student to prepare and deliver *three* 30-minute expository sermons/lessons during class time on their assigned days. One sermon/lesson will be from a prophet in the OT, and one from a passage in the NT, and one from the Psalms.
 - The schedule and set texts will be prepared in the first week of class.

- Sermons/lessons should reflect qualities that will be discussed more fully on the first day of class, including *Delivery, Exposition, Unity, Structure & Components, Legitimately Christ-Centered, and Application*.
- Step 1 for each sermon/lesson: snapshot
 - *One week prior to the student's assigned date* to deliver the sermon/lesson, the student will provide the professor via Canvas with a “snapshot” of the sermon/lesson, including the main idea (or proposition), RHF/FCF, tentative outline, and exegetical/homiletical questions.
 - This will allow the student to solicit feedback prior to writing the full sermon/lesson.
 - Failure to provide the “snapshot” will result in a full letter grade reduction for that sermon/lesson.
- Step 2 for each sermon/lesson: manuscript
 - Students must provide the instructor (via Canvas) an electronic copy of the full sermon/lesson by 5pm the day before it is to be delivered. The student is permitted to make changes after that, of course, but the bulk of the sermon/lesson must be there. This is to enforce the discipline of not waiting until the last minute to write your sermon!
 - Late manuscript submissions will result in a full letter grade reduction for that sermon/lesson.
 - The manuscript must adhere to the guidelines provided in Canvas, which include a section in which the student provides a summary of their exegetical work on the sermon/lesson text (including the original languages, if applicable).
- Step 3 for each sermon/lesson: delivery
 - In the assigned time slot, the student will deliver the sermon/lesson and incorporate (a) prayer for illumination and (b) reading of the assigned text (in whichever order is preferred). Introductory remarks about the text need to be kept minimally sufficient.
 - As this is a second level lab, students are not required to speak directly from the manuscript they have submitted. In fact, Lab II is an excellent opportunity to work on preaching/teaching from an outline or some other form.
 - The 30-minute time limit excludes the prayer and Scripture reading but includes everything else. A window of ± 2 minutes is permitted, but anything outside that window will result in a grade reduction ($\frac{1}{3}$ letter grade per minute). Part of the goal is to learn the discipline of pace and preparation.

- Step 4 for each sermon/lesson: self-assessment
 - After the delivery of the sermon/lesson, the instructor will provide the student with (a) scans of classmate evaluation forms (see below) and (b) a digital recording.
 - Each student should review both and provide a self-assessment within Canvas within two weeks of the date it was delivered. Married students are required to watch the recording with their spouses to solicit feedback.
 - Late submissions or failure to complete the assessment will result in a letter grade reduction for that sermon/lesson.
- **Short communication exercises**
 - Overview: Each student will also be required to complete two shorter speaking exercises (~5-7 minutes). The first will be an extemporaneous homily. The second will from the following options: baptism homily; wedding homily; funeral homily; Lord's Supper homily (+ words of institution/fencing)
 - Evaluation will be based on overall quality and preparation/delivery reflected across each assignment.
- **Participation and Feedback**
 - Overview
 - Each student is required to participate respectfully in open discussion after each sermon/lesson to provide constructive feedback to the speaker. The quality of any given lab is directly correlated with the quality of the interaction among the students. Each student is asked to be thoughtful, encouraging, but also helpful in providing useful feedback on things that the speaker did well and things that could be improved. Part of growing as a speaker is both *receiving* honest feedback and *giving* it.
 - Each student will also be required to fill in an evaluation form for each sermon/lesson (to be provided on each class day). The completed forms will be scanned and provided to each speaker.
 - If you are unable to attend lab, email the instructor.
 - Evaluation
 - Grades will be assessed based on the general level of engagement each student shows during discussion times, both *giving* and *receiving* feedback.
 - Persistent lack of participation, shallow feedback, unfair feedback, or defensiveness/argumentativeness will result in a lower grade.
 - Failure to turn in an evaluation form for each sermon/lesson (unless you have an excused absence) will result in a grade reduction.
 - Each unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction.

- **Reflection Paper**
 - Assignment
 - Write a 1,000–1,500 word paper (1.5 spacing) containing the following:
 - Summary of key learnings from the course
 - Self-assessment of your progress and readiness to preach/teach
 - Summary of observations from watching your recordings
 - Areas on which you wish to focus for future improvement
 - Submit the paper via Canvas by the posted deadline.
 - Evaluation
 - The paper will be graded on the quality of its reflections and composition.
 - In other words, you will receive an A unless it is incomplete, late, or obviously thrown together at the last minute.
- **Reading Report**
 - Assignment
 - Read 200+ pages from one (or more) of the selected book.
 - Write a 1,000–1,500 word report including the following:
 - Summary of the book's main points, strengths, and weaknesses
 - Four or more favorite quotations from the book
 - Reflections on how the book may help your preaching/teaching
 - Submit the paper via Canvas by the posted deadline.
 - Evaluation
 - Same as for the reflection paper (above).

6. Grading

• Expository Sermons/Lessons (22% each)	66%
• Short communication exercises	11%
• Participation and Feedback	15%
• Reflection Paper	4%
• <u>Reading Report</u>	4%
	100%

7. Schedule

- A detailed schedule will be provided during the first week of class.

8. Other Details

- Students are expected to dress professionally on the days they are delivering their sermon/lesson. Students are not permitted to use laptops, tablets, or phones in class.
- The speaker is permitted to use printed notes or a tablet device, but not laptops.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: PT5175 – Preaching Lab II

Professor: Gregory R. Lanier

Campus: Orlando

Date: Spring 2026

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.	Strong	In-class sermons In-class discussion and feedback
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	Emphasis on exposition of Scripture passages from OT and NT
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Importance of communicating Reformed doctrine through exposition of Scripture
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Process of preparation and delivery of sermon, as well as receiving/giving feedback, are emphasized as part of a preacher's sanctification
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Encouraging awareness of and engagement with contemporary issues via illustrations/applications
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.)	Moderate	Sermons encouraged to be winsome in tone and evangelically-oriented when appropriate
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	All assignments oriented towards expository preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Primarily via emphasis on preaching as part of worship
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Emphasis on preaching as discipleship and shepherding of the flock
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Emphasis on addressing issues within the church and world via sermon illustrations/applications