

Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington, D. C.
Preaching Lab I – 06PT5125
Syllabus

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates: Thursdays running from September 10 to December 10, 2026

Time: 4:00 pm-6:00pm

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Ryan Laughlin

Contact Info: rlaughlin@mcleanpres.org

Office Hours: Available by appointment.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description: This course provides opportunities for students to communicate the truth of Scripture through sermons. These lab hours are designed to put the lecture content of concurrent Communication course into practice with feedback from the instructor and peers. Emphasis will be placed on the sermon writing process as well as delivery of content.

Objective: Provide preaching opportunities for the development and maturing of homiletical abilities with an eye toward vocational ministry.

Format: Active involvement in preaching, listening, and discussing sermons and the sermon-writing process.

Schedule: Preaching/teaching dates will be assigned to students on or before the first day of class. **No class during the reading week.** Important dates for this semester:

- **September 8** — Classes Begin
- **October 12-16** — Reading Week
- **November 26-27** – Thanksgiving/RTS Closed
- **December 11**— Last day of classes
- **December 14-18** — Examination Period

Prerequisites: None; Recommended concurrent with PT5100 – Communications I.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Attendance:* You are expected to attend every class. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, you are responsible to notify the instructor.

2. *Class Discussion and Peer-Evaluation (20%)*: Engagement in lab discussion as well as the completion of a Preaching Evaluation Form for every sermon delivered by classmates.

3. *Preaching Sermons (60%)*: You will prepare and deliver at least two sermons, one from the Old Testament (consider narrative) and one from the New Testament (consider epistle). For each sermon the required preparation work should be submitted **12 hours** before preaching. Sermons should not exceed 30 minutes in length for this course.

- OT Sermon Prep Work 10%
 - Outline of sermon on one typed page and include all works referenced in sermon development
 - Manuscript of sermon not to exceed 2,500 words
- OT Sermon Delivery 15%
- NT Sermon Prep Work 10%
 - Outline of sermon on one typed page and include all works referenced in sermon development
 - Manuscript of sermon not to exceed 2,500 words
- NT Sermon Delivery 15%
- Extemporaneous Sermon Delivery 10%

4. *Funeral Homily (10%)*: You will prepare a funeral homily by choosing a text and preparing a full manuscript, *not to exceed* 1,000 words. **Due by midnight on Wednesday, 10/30/26.**

5. *Illustration Development (10%)*: Students will bring sermon illustrations with them on assigned dates. Each illustration will be typed and no longer than one-page in length with the original source, possible themes, and one example of how this illustration could be developed within a sermon.

Required Reading: For your particular sermon texts there is an expectation of interaction with the original language(s) and biblical commentaries.

RTS Grading Scale:

A (97-100) 4.00 quality points

A- (94-96) 3.66

B+ (91-93) 3.33

B (88-90) 3.00

B- (86-87) 2.66

C+ (83-85) 2.33

C (80-82) 2.00

C- (78-79) 1.66

D+ (75-77) 1.33

D (72-74) 1.00

D- (70-71) 0.66

F (below 70) 0.00

I (incomplete) 0.00

W, WP (withdraw, 0.00 withdraw passing)

S (satisfactory) 0.00

Note: assignments will be graded throughout the course of the semester but students will not receive any grades until the semester is complete.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Preaching Lab 1
 Professor: Ryan Laughlin
 Campus: Washington DC
 Date: September-December 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<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> <small>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</small>		<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	Providing students the preaching opportunities to articulate biblical and theological content with clarity.
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	Original language work is an expected part of this preaching lab; sermons should reflect sound exegetical work.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Interpreting and communicating Scripture in sermons reflects our theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	During sermon delivery and (especially) evaluative discussion
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	Sermons bring the timeless truth of God's word into connection with our particular contexts
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	Preaching that engages all who may hear
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churching 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 purpose of this lab

