

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Evangel University

HOM 529 Communicating the Message I
Wednesdays, 11:00 AM–1:45 PM

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Fall 2017

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive course dealing with essential and creative elements in the development of sermons. Attention will be given to all aspects of preparation and composition and to each part of the message. The theology and history of preaching, contemporary perspectives, methods, development of resources and sermon analysis will also be considered. This course will enhance the skills of veteran preachers while providing a solid foundation for the less experienced.

OBJECTIVES

Through required and optional reading, lectures and class discussion, student presentations, and the completion of assignments, the student should fulfill the following course objectives:

Knowing

1. Understand and gain the ability to explain the central themes of biblical theology and how they affect sermon preparation.
2. Gain knowledge of and evaluate the components of preaching and their contributions to effective gospel communication.

Being

1. Gain an awareness of the role of the Holy Spirit in sermon preparation and delivery.
2. Be formed as a preacher within a Spirit-filled context.

Doing

1. Develop clearly organized, relevant messages that reflect biblical accuracy.
2. Constructively critique and analyze the expository preaching of others.
3. Constructively critique and analyze one's own expository preaching.

TEXTBOOKS

Quicke, Michael J. *360-Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003. ISBN: 978-0801026409 (Also available in a variety of electronic formats)

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*, 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014. ISBN: 978-0801049125 (Also available in a variety of electronic formats)

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

BASIC OUTLINE

The course will be divided into two primary sections: lecture/discussion and preaching. The lecture/discussion portion of the course will cover a variety of topics that will guide students through vital aspects of sermon development, including the development of exegetical and hermeneutical skills necessary for effective sermon development. The second portion of the course will provide students the opportunity both to demonstrate their mastery of the skills from the first portion of the course and to gain experience constructively critiquing their preaching and the preaching of others. For more detailed information regarding the outline of the course, please refer to Appendix A.

METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, class discussion, student preaching, professor and peer critiques, as well as reading and written assignments.
2. The first portion of the course will give attention to lectures and discussion on the biblical theology of preaching, the components of sermon development, and effective delivery.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons presented in the classroom setting. Sermons will be critiqued by the professor and the other students. The student will then receive a video recording of their sermon to review for self-critique.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions. Class participation is constituted by engaging in class discussion and raising questions significant to the topic at hand. Absences should be for extreme circumstances only. Based on the student handbook, exceeding the absence limit will be regarded as an unofficial withdrawal and result in a grade of F.
2. The student will read ***all*** assigned materials. On the last day of class, a signed statement must be submitted noting all assigned course material has been read.
3. Students will prepare and deliver a 12-minute message expounding an entire one verse (two line) passage from the book of Proverbs. Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade reduction. Details regarding assignment components appear in Appendix B.
4. Students will prepare and deliver a 15-minute message expounding an entire psalm from the book of Psalms. *Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade reduction.* Details regarding assignment components appear in Appendix B.

5. Students will prepare and submit a 500-word self-critique of their sermon delivery. This critique should highlight both those things the student feels he or she did well and areas where he or she needs to improve. This assignment is due within seven days of video availability.
6. All assignments are to be electronically submitted via Course Commons as a PDF no later than the beginning of class on the due date. Any assignments received after that time, if not accompanied with an acceptable reason for tardiness, shall result in a reduction of the student's score on that assignment at a daily rate of 3%. Given the request for electronic submission, weekends count in that daily reduction. If the assignment has not been submitted after 10 days, the student shall receive a grade of F for the assignment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—*AGTS Student Handbook*.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at: http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

As defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If AGTS students believe they qualify for accommodations, they should contact the AGTS Student Life Office, Room 218, telephone extension 8881.

COURSE COMMONS

This course will use Evangel's learning management system, Course Commons, powered by the Canvas Learning Management System. Login directly at: <https://courses.evangel.edu/> or go to the Student Portal/Course Commons

Use your Evangel username and password to login.

To access this course, hover over or click Courses at the top of the page after logging in.

- a. **Before the class starts:** Students will have access to Course Commons and this course seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. This does not mean all course content will be ready. Release of course content will be the prerogative of the professor. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked and all submitted work will be lost.
- b. **Course Content:** All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, quizzes, exams, discussions, grades, etc.) will be located on the navigation pane on the left hand side of our course. At the end of a semester, students will have limited access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work and grades will be available.
- c. **Personal Settings:** After logging into Course Commons, be sure to go to Settings and adjust your personal profile settings. *Add in a profile picture of yourself (Smile!).*
 - I. Set your notifications: set how you'll be notified (EU email, personal email, text, Twitter, etc.) and how often.
- d. **Help:** *Click the Help button in the top right hand corner after you login. By clicking Help, you'll be able to...*
 - i. Submit a question directly to your instructor
 - ii. Access Canvas Help Guides
 - iii. Submit a Course Commons Helpdesk Ticket
- e. **Course Commons Student Orientation:** All EU students are automatically enrolled in the [Course Commons Student Orientation site](#). What's available? [Getting Started](#) help, what to do [During Your Course](#), [Help and FAQ](#), the [Student Quick Start Guide](#), and much more.
- f. **Course Commons Troubleshooting:** Question about a quiz or course content? *Contact your instructor, first!* Technical question about the Course Commons? Click Help and submit a ticket through Report a Problem. *Can't access Course Commons?* Contact the EU IT Helpdesk: 417-865-2815 x8368 (phone) or helpdesk@evangel.edu (email) or help.evangel.edu (web).

GRADING PROCEDURE

The course grade will be based on the following percentages:

First sermon and related assignments	40%
Second sermon and related assignments	40%
Self-critiques	10%
Class participation	5%
Reading	5%
	100%

For further details regarding the contribution of each assignment to the course grade, please refer to Appendix C.

Any assignments received after the due date, if not accompanied with an acceptable reason for tardiness, shall result in a reduction of the student's score on that assignment at a daily rate of 3% of the total possible grade. Given the request for electronic submission, weekends count in that daily reduction. If the assignment has not been submitted after 10 days, the student shall receive a grade of F for the assignment.

Students should retain a copy of all work submitted, until they have received a grade for this work.

Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of IP (In Process) will be issued if the course ends after the AGTS semester ends. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://www.agts.edu/academics/forms.html>. The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days, may include a grade reduction, and will be assessed a grade change fee. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I grades.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth Rice. *Preaching as Theology and Art*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984.
- Allen, Leslie C. *Word Biblical Commentary*. 2nd ed. Vol. 21, *Psalms 101–150*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002.
- Barth, Karl. *Homiletics*. Trans. G.W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Craigie, Peter C. *Word Biblical Commentary*. 2nd ed. Vol. 19, *Psalms 1–50*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Edwards, J. Kent. *Deep Preaching: Creating Sermons that Go Beyond the Superficial*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.
- Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching that Connects: Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Goldingay, John. *Psalms*. Baker Commentary On the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2006.

- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Hubbard, David Allan, and Glenn W. Barker. *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011.
- Kinlaw, Dennis F. *Preaching in the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Francis Asbury, 1985.
- Knowles, Michael P. *The Folly of Preaching: Models and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Knowles, Michael P. *We Preach Not Ourselves: Paul on Proclamation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Longman, Tremper. *Proverbs*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Evangelistic Preaching that Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh & Appealing Sermons*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1995.
- Lowry, Eugene. *The Homiletical Plot: The sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Essential Nature of New Testament Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1960.
- Robinson, Haddon, and Craig Brian Larson, eds. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Soards, Marion. *The Speeches in Acts: Their Content, Context, and Concerns*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994.
- Waltke, Bruce. *The Book of Proverbs*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Daniel I. Morrison, March 2017.

APPENDIX A—COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Class Session
Aug. 23	Preaching as Leadership: Contemporary Foundations of Preaching Expository Preaching and Communicating for Change
Aug. 30	A Biblical Theology of Preaching (Old Testament) A Biblical Theology of Preaching (New Testament) <i>Passage Selection Day</i>
Sept. 06	Preaching and Biblical Theology Preparing to Preach
Sept. 13	The Role of the Holy Spirit in Sermon Preparation Christ-Centered Preaching: A Biblical Model of Delivery
Sept. 20	The Sermon: Bridge Between the Modern Hearer and the Ancient Text (I) The Sermon: Bridge Between the Modern Hearer and the Ancient Text (II)
Sept. 27	Practical Elements of Public Speaking for the Pulpit The Role of the Holy Spirit in Sermon Delivery
Oct. 04	Sermons (Round 1—Week 1)
Oct. 11	Sermons (Round 1—Week 2)
Oct. 18	Fall Study Week (NO CLASS)
Oct. 25	Sermons (Round 2—Week 1)
Nov. 01	Sermons (Round 2—Week 2)
Nov. 08	Preaching for Special Occasions
Nov. 15	Library/Reading/Research Day – This day should be used for students to catch up or move ahead in the course. <i>Roll will be taken.</i>
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)
Nov. 29	Prophetically Preaching in Cultural Context
Dec. 06	<i>Reading Verification Forms (available on Course Commons) due today</i>

APPENDIX B—SERMON PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

PREACHING (ROUND 1)

In preparation for the first round of preaching, students will prepare a 1-page (single-spaced) summary explaining/defending his or her exegetical observations and conclusions. An initial (rough draft) exegetical outline and exegetical proposition should be submitted two weeks prior to sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

The homiletical outlines should possess three main points: Problem, Solution, and Application. These main points should be expressed in complete sentences. The outline should be carried to the third level of subordination (e.g., I. A. 1. a.). A sample PSA outline is available via Course Commons. This outline is due one (1) week before sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

Students will prepare a manuscript of the sermon written in prose style. The manuscript should reflect the content of your actual delivery, and read like a preached message—not an academic paper. This is due one (1) week before sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

PREACHING (ROUND 2)

In preparation for the second round of preaching, students will prepare a 1-page (single-spaced) summary explaining/defending his or her exegetical observations and conclusions. An initial (rough draft) and exegetical outline and exegetical proposition should be submitted two weeks prior to sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

The homiletical outlines should possess three main points: Exegetical Proposition, Theological Proposition, and Homiletical Proposition. NOTE: These are three distinct outlines combined into one. These main points should be expressed in complete sentences. The outline should be carried to the third level of subordination (e.g., I. A. 1. a.). A sample ETH outline is available via Course Commons. This outline is due one (1) week before sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

Students will prepare a manuscript of the sermon written in prose style. The manuscript should reflect the content of your actual delivery, and read like a preached message—not an academic paper. This is due one (1) week before sermon delivery.

Due Date: _____

APPENDIX C—ASSIGNMENT WEIGHT

Round 1 of Preaching Assignments		40%
	1-page summary of exegetical observations and conclusions	10%
	Exegetical outline and proposition	5%
	Sermon manuscript	15%
	Sermon delivery	10%
Round 1 Preaching Self-Critique		5%
Round 2 of Preaching Assignments		40%
	1-page summary of exegetical observations and conclusions	10%
	Exegetical outline and proposition	5%
	Sermon manuscript	15%
	Sermon delivery	10%
Round 2 Preaching Self-Critique		5%
Class Participation		5%
Reading		5%
Total		100%