

## HOMILETICS

**Fall 2009**  
**Course Syllabus**

**3 credit hours**  
**R. Kadyschuk**

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Homiletics course is to introduce you to the theory and practice of preaching. Your development as a preacher will continue during the Internship year where you fulfil the speaking requirements for Preaching Practicum 1 and 2. In your Senior year, Preaching 3 adds further theory and practice to your homiletical awareness and ability.

Preaching is a vital aspect of Christian ministry. Vocational ministers-in-training need to learn the basic elements of preaching. Some of these elements include homiletical structure as well as the core traditional approaches to preaching (i.e., topical, textual, and expository sermons). These fundamentals are like learning scales at the beginning of piano lessons.

This Homiletics course majors on the fundamentals but also exposes you to the broader range of contemporary approaches to sermons. From the outset it is also important that you begin to perceive your own unique attributes and interests that will lead to a personal combination of effectiveness in presenting the Word of God. This activity may be viewed as similar to the freedom that a trained pianist displays in exploring new avenues of creative expression.

The course website is in a state of transition to a new location. For our present purposes I will email you a Word file that contains this syllabus outline. Use it for easier electronic access to the website addresses that are listed throughout the syllabus.

“The doctrine of preaching in the New Testament” is an article at the following website: <http://www.biblicaltheology.com/Research/DavisS01.html>. It offers a good overview and introduction to New Testament words for preaching, basic forms of preaching in the New Testament, and the theological foundations for the New Testament’s emphasis on preaching.

### TEXTBOOKS

#### Required:

1. Anderson, Kenton. *Choosing to preach: A comprehensive introduction to sermon options and structures*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Anderson teaches homiletics at the ACTS Seminaries in Trinity Western University. He is a very concise and articulate student of homiletics. The book first raises four basic options that demand a decision from the reader then presents five different approaches to sermon theory and structure. An accompanying CD provides audio examples of sermons from four of the five approaches.

2. Stanley, Andy and Jones, Lane. *Communicating for a change*. Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah, 2006.

Andy Stanley is a prominent mega-church pastor, prolific author and engaging conference speaker who has made a strong positive impact on the North American evangelical church scene. This book offers a concise presentation of the essence of Stanley's approach to preaching.

#### Reference:

1. Braga, James. *How to prepare Bible messages*. 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah, 2005.

Braga's "clear and logical method combines effective techniques for public speaking with time-tested theories of teaching" (from back cover). Braga has been used in homiletics courses for decades as a basic introduction to the theory and practice of homiletics. He covers the three traditional approaches to preaching (topical, thematic, expository) and thoroughly develops the structure for expository sermons. A bonus feature from Braga is a collection of hundreds of sermon outlines scattered throughout the book as he illustrates his points.

2. Miller, Calvin. *Preaching: The art of narrative exposition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Miller is a master of figurative language. He captures your imagination with his images and ideas. In this text Miller outlines his model for narrative expositional preaching, the result of his decades of pastoral preaching and teaching of homiletics to seminarians.

#### Background to Textbooks Used

The **Anderson** book connects psychologist David Kolb's Experiential Learning Model (p.48) to four different combinations of homiletical structure used by preachers today (p.129) plus a fifth model that Anderson puts together as a cumulative example of what he regards as the best of the other four. Anderson's book is useful in helping preachers to face the challenge of relating to a postmodern culture.

The **Stanley and Jones** book is divided into two parts. In Part I Lane Jones writes "a fascinating parable about a pastor who knew he needed to upgrade his communication skills but didn't know where to turn for help" (p.12). In Part II Andy Stanley presents his seven imperatives for effective communication as a preacher. He views these imperatives as "most critical to the process of engaging and inspiring an audience with one solitary idea" (pp.12-13). In Stanley's view, "Every sermon should take the audience somewhere. We are convinced that these seven things are critical to the journey" (p.13).

In years past we have used the **Braga** book as the core text for this course. Although not very exciting reading, the Braga text has always provided a fine introduction to the fundamentals of homiletical structure. He 'breaks down' the expository sermon into its component parts (the 'scales'!) and provides a foundational understanding for those parts. He also excels in giving many examples to illustrate every aspect of his discussion. With the availability of more diverse and contemporary resources for homiletics, Braga has been relegated to the status of a 'gracious elder' who stands in the shadows. You are not required to purchase Braga.

The **Miller** book provides an excellent contemporary statement of the essential elements of narrative expositional preaching today. Miller starts with analysis (of the preacher, the audience, the sermon, and the call of the sermon) then moves to the construction and delivery of the sermon. A bonus feature in Miller is the Appendix where he reviews "10 indispensable elements of form and style that will identify and define what the sermon is" (p.230). Miller uses different theorists and

preachers to illustrate these 10 elements.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The content, assignments, presentations, and exams in this course are designed to challenge you in the following ways:

Cognitive - what you should know and understand:

- The meaning and purpose of preaching.
- Basic homiletical structures and principles that promote clear and effective communication of biblical truth.
- The relationship between form and content in preaching.
- The place of homiletics within the larger context of pastoral ethics and responsibilities.

Affective - what you should experience and value:

- The diverse models that are provided by others who have been effective in sermon preparation and delivery.
- The role of appropriate homiletical structure in effective preaching.
- The need to 'rightly divide the word of truth' both in the preparation and presentation of biblical sermons.
- The importance for preachers to continually improve their sermonic skills.

Conative - what you should do with these insights, attitudes, and skills:

- Apply the principles learned in class to the act of preaching, particularly the expository sermon.
- Demonstrate personal learning from the examples of experienced practitioners of homiletics.
- Explain the elements of change that are sought through the act of preaching.
- Explore the broad range of resources available for the preacher.

## COURSE CONTENT

The content for this course is organized around the following areas:

### 1. Introduction

- "preaching at a crossroads" (Anderson, pp.15-17)

### 2. Background to preaching

- "are you going to preach?" (Anderson, pp.21-32)
- the need
- definitions
- biblical basis
- methodology
- forms, models, examples
- the 'anointing' in preaching

### 3. Approaches to preaching

- "are you going to preach the Bible?" (Anderson, pp.33-46)
- the 'foolishness' of preaching
- types of sermons: topical, textual, expository

- other models for preaching
  - types of biblical literature
4. The elements of homiletical structure (for expository sermons – from Braga)
    - Scripture text
    - title and introduction
    - proposition/thesis (the ‘big’ idea)
    - the ‘question’
    - transitions
    - main and sub-points
    - illustrations and examples
    - application/conclusion/invitation
  5. “How will you *discern* your message?” (Anderson, pp.47-84)
    - deductive approach: text -> listener
    - inductive approach: listener -> text
  6. “How will you *deliver* (communicate) your message? (Anderson, pp.85-125)
    - cognitive approach: idea (Braga)
    - affective approach: image (Miller)
  7. Summary of Anderson’s five structures for preaching models (pp.127-261)
    - declarative Sermon: cognitive-deduction
    - pragmatic Sermon: cognitive-induction
    - visionary Sermon: affective-deduction
    - narrative Sermon: affective-induction
- Note: You will not be responsible for reading this section of Anderson’s book during the present course; however, I will summarize the five structures in class (pp.127-132).
8. “Me, We, God, You, We” (from Andy Stanley)
    - facilitating the preacher’s communication journey with their audience
  9. Other topics for consideration (as time permits)
    - preaching to children and youth
    - sermons for special occasions
    - the use of sermon series in preaching
    - ethics in preaching
    - preaching in the urban/rural, large/small church
    - alternative approaches to preaching (e.g., dramatic sermons, principle preaching, preaching as counseling, etc.)
  10. Practical preaching assignments in class

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance

I assume that you will attend class regularly as defined by the Academic Policies. The policies allow for up to 6 class absences in a 3-credit course including all medical and personal needs. Also, the policies state that three class hours of 'lates' equal one 'absence.'

Our class meets:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-10:15 a.m.

### Assignments and Exams

#### 1. Sermon Analysis and Critiques (15%)

- purpose: to practise the technical analysis of sermons.
- assignment: listen to three different Sunday sermons in church and complete a written critical analysis of each sermon.
- Critiques 1 and 2 must be of two different preachers early in the semester.
- Critique 3 must be of one of the first two preachers but late in the semester.
- Due Dates:           Sermon Critique 1 – Tuesday October 6  
                              Sermon Critique 2 – Tuesday October 13  
                              Sermon Critique 3 – Tuesday December 8

#### 2. Mini-Sermon (10%)

- purpose: to practice the preaching of specific parts of a sermon.
- assignment: prepare and present the beginning of a sermon (6-7 minutes).
- include these elements: a title, Scripture text, introduction, thesis (central idea), a relevant question (to be answered by the sermon), a transition statement (to lead from thesis and question to the main points of the sermon), and a quick overview of what would become your main points.

#### 3. Preparation and Preaching of a Sermon in Class (30%)

- purpose: to practice the preparation and delivery of a narrative expository sermon and a briefer exhortational message.
- assignment: prepare and preach a narrative expository sermon (20-22 minutes in length) in full manuscript form then prepare and preach a brief exhortational message (8-10 minutes) from the same sermon with minimal notes.

As part of the preaching practicum you will also:

- watch and listen to the expository sermons of classmates and complete an evaluation form for each sermon.
- review the videotape of your own sermon and complete a self-evaluation form.
- meet with me for a personal debrief on the sermon.
- prepare a 1-2 page summary of your notes and share in class an 8-10 minute version of your sermon that is not tied to a manuscript.

I will give you more details in class for each of the above three assignments.

#### 4. Review of Resource Websites in the Course Syllabus

- purpose: to gain familiarity with some of the preaching resources available on the web.
- assignment: browse through the resource websites given in the syllabus and write a brief response to each of the sites (i.e., what you learned from the site, the value the site has to offer to a preacher, etc.).

Completion of the website review does not add marks to your grade; however, unsatisfactory or non-completion of the exercise will detract marks from your final grade.

#### 5. Mid-term Exam (15%)

- purpose: to test the textbook readings and classroom material covered to the midpoint of the semester.
- assignment: a 1 hour exam in class in October.

#### 6. Final Exam (30%)

- purpose: to test the textbook readings and classroom material from the whole course.
- assignment: a 2 hour final exam in December.

### APPROACH TO INSTRUCTION

Classroom sessions include a combination of: lectures, discussion, video and web-based examples of preachers, guest teachers, classroom exercises, and the preaching of sermons by class members.

Exams are a means to test your growing awareness and understanding of the material being covered in the course.

Preaching in class provides an opportunity to combine theoretical understanding with practical experience. Added benefit comes through constructive feedback from classmates, instructor and your own self-examination of the video replay.

This approach to instruction is based on the assumption that a course in homiletics needs:

- a solid introduction to homiletical theory and models,
- an exposure to preachers who are actively engaged in the challenge of effective preparation and presentation of sermons, and
- a significant commitment to 'hands-on' experience in working with the concepts.

### RESOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Every preacher should have a website like Bible Gateway.com at their fingertips. It is a fine resource with many Bible translations available for immediate Bible searches.

(<http://www.biblegateway.com/>)

If you do a Lexwin search of the college library's resources in this subject area, you will find many entries for topics like 'homiletics' and 'preaching.' You can readily create a personal database of useful internet resources by doing a websearch of 'homiletics' and 'preaching' and other related words.

***A number of books related to preaching, published since 2004, that are of interest to me are listed below:***

Allen, Bob. Sermon CPR: Resuscitating your preaching style. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2005.

Ash, Christopher. The priority of preaching. Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire (Scotland): Christian

Focus Publications, 2009.

Bartholomew, Craig and Goheen, Michael. The drama of Scripture: Finding our place in the biblical story. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Bystrom, Raymond. Preaching biblical sermons: Three contemporary strategies. Winnipeg: Kindred Books, 2006.

Day, David. Preaching with all you've got: Embodying the Word. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2005.

Duduit, Michael, editor. Preaching with power: Dynamic insights from twenty top pastors. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Eaton, Michael. The gift of prophetic preaching. Chichester, West Sussex (United Kingdom): New Wine Press, 2008.

Edwards, J. Kent. Effective first-person biblical preaching: The steps from text to narrative sermon. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (includes CD with video demonstration)

Gibson, Scott, editor. Preaching to a shifting culture: 12 perspectives on communicating that connects. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Graves, Mike and Schlafer, David, editors. What's the shape of narrative preaching? St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2008.

Haslam, Greg, general editor. Preach the Word: The call and challenge of preaching today. Lancaster, England: Sovereign World, 2006.

Knowles, Michael, ed. The folly of preaching: Models and methods. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Koller, Charles. How to preach without notes. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1962. Reprinted 2007.

Kysar, Robert and Webb, Joseph. Preaching to postmoderns: New perspectives for proclaiming the message. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006.

Lybrand, Fred. Preaching on your feet: Connecting God and the audience in the preachable moment. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.

McDill, Wayne. 12 essential skills for great preaching. Second edition. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2006.

Medefind, Jeff and Lokkesmoe, Erik. The revolutionary communicator: Seven principles Jesus lived to impact, connect and lead. Lake Mary, Florida: RelevantBooks, 2004.

Reid, Robert. The four voices of preaching: Connecting purpose and identity behind the pulpit. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006.

Robinson, Haddon and Larson Craig, general editors. The art and craft of biblical preaching: A comprehensive resource for today's communicators. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Salter, Darius. Preaching as art: Biblical storytelling for a media generation. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2008.

Standing, Roger. Finding the plot: Preaching in narrative style. Falmouth: Cornwall, 2004.

Stone, Dave. Refining your style: Learning from respected communicators. Loveland, Colorado: Group, 2004. (includes CD with audio examples)

Tucker, Austin. The preacher as storyteller: The power of narrative in the pulpit. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.

Wilson, Paul. Setting words on fire: Putting God at the center of the sermon. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.

*Other authors not mentioned above are worthy of note when you look for preaching resources. Several are listed below (in alphabetical order):*

Jay Adams	Donald Demaray	Eugene Lowry	Ed Rowell
Ronald Allen	Clyde Fant	John MacArthur	William Sangster
Andrew Blackwood	Alfred Gibbs	Frederick Meyer	John Stott
Stuart Briscoe	Michael Green	Calvin Miller	Warren Wiersbe
Bryan Chapell	Woodrow Kroll	Harold Ockenga	Keith Willhite
Fred Craddock	D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones	Lloyd Perry	William Willimon

There are many resources for homiletics and preaching available on the internet. The following pages provide some useful links to journal articles that are online. Some of the websites also offer online audio sermons from contemporary as well as old-time preachers.

## Web Resources for Preaching

***All websites referred to in this syllabus are active as of August 2009.***

For ease of access to the web addresses, go to the course website to use the web version of this syllabus. The web links to all sites will save you the trouble of typing url addresses.

### 1. Samples from 'Leadership Journal'

The Christianity Today organization has changed their approach to archival material. To have access to the full text of journal articles, paid subscriptions are now available at <http://www.ctlibrary.com>.

Archival articles are still listed but only the first few paragraphs of each article are given as a free preview.

At the <http://www.christianitytoday.com> website, there are still some free full-text journal articles. For articles related to preaching, go to: <http://www.ctlibrary.com/topics/leadershippastoralministry/preaching>

Go to <http://www.christianitytoday.com/leaders> and browse through the articles that are offered there. You will find that some of the articles still give only a preview of the first few paragraphs for

free.

Example of an article of interest – at the site:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/preachingworship/preaching/preachingonmyfeet.html>,

you will find “Preaching on My Feet: Could I speak for 35 minutes without ever writing notes?” by Craig Brian Larson.

The college library has many years of Leadership Journal in paper copy. If you see an article on the website that interests you, it might be available in the college collection.

## 2. Samples of Preaching Resources from Other Websites

OnePlace.com -Listen for Life

<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/>

A portal to many ministry resources

Homiletics Online

<http://www.homileticsonline.com/>

The online version of ‘Homiletics’ magazine plus other resources, by paid subscription.

The Catholic Encyclopedia – definition of Homiletics

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07443a.htm>

A detailed study of the definition of preaching, its historical development, etc.

Preaching Online

<http://www.preaching.com/>

The online version of ‘Preaching’ magazine for print subscribers.

This site also offers a free weekly email newsletter featuring sermon ideas, illustrations, and insights on preaching the Word.

PreachingToday.Com

<http://www.preachingtoday.com/>

A paid subscription for “over 8,000 illustrations in a searchable database, preaching workshops, full sermon outlines, and many more invaluable tools and tips.”

PreachingTodaySermons

<http://www.preachingtodaysermons.com/preacthatcon.html>

An extension of Preaching Today.

PreachingTodayAudio - from Christianity Today

<http://www.preachingtodayaudio.com/>

A paid subscription – “choose from an extensive list of the top sermons and workshops, collected over the 20-year history of the popular and trusted ‘Preaching Today Audio’ series.”

Preaching.Org

<http://www.preaching.org/>

Kent Anderson’s website of preaching resources based mainly on his ‘integrative model’ of preaching.

lensweet’spreachingplus

<http://www.preachingplus.com/>

A combination of free and paid subscription resources from Leonard Sweet and others who are at the forefront of analysis of what preaching to the 'postmodern culture' means.

Dynamic Preaching Online

<http://www.sermons.com/>

A paid subscription for preaching resources.

Sermon Index

<http://www.sermonindex.net/>

An awesome collection of audio (and some video) sermons from many old-time, as well as current, preachers.

Online Sermons

<http://sermons.christiansunite.com/>

A smaller version of Sermon Index.

Sermonaudio.com

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/>

A large collection of audio sermons by many preachers.

Audio Bible

<http://www.audio-bible.com/bible/bible.html>

The audio reading of the Bible.

**Horizon College and Seminary**  
**TIME ESTIMATES FOR COURSE WORKLOAD**

Name of Course: HOMILETICS

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: R. Kadyschuk

Semester: Fall 2009

**THIS COURSE REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING WORK FROM A STUDENT:**

**I. READING:**

<u>Name of Text</u>	<u>No. of Pages</u>	<u>Degree of Difficulty</u>	<u>Estimated Time</u>
Stanley and Jones text	180	moderate to medium (12-15 pages per hour)	12 hours
Anderson text	100	moderate (10-12 pages per hour)	10 hours

**II. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

<u>Type of Assignment</u>	<u>Number of Pages</u>	<u>Estimated Time</u>
Analysis/critiques of church sermons (three)	---	6 hours
Review of websites in course syllabus	---	4 hours

**III. OTHER:**

<u>Type of Assignment</u>	<u>Number of Pages</u>	<u>Estimated Time</u>
Preparation for 6-7 minute mini-sermon	---	4 hours
Preparation for 20-22 minute sermon	---	14 hours
View your own sermon, self-critique, meeting for debrief	---	2 hours
Preparation for second presentation of sermon	---	4 hours

**IV. EXAMINATIONS:**

Mid-Term Study Time - 5-6 hours

(Final exam study time is outside the framework of these estimates)

**TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS FOR THIS COURSE: 62 hours**

**NOTE**

The Academic Policies (as published in the 'Community Living Guidelines' handbook) allow a maximum of 72 hours for a 3-credit hour course (in addition to class time).

# Horizon College Assessment of Student Work

(based on University of Saskatchewan guidelines)

**90-100% [Exceptional]** – a superior performance with consistent strong evidence of:

- a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given;
- an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

**80-89% [Excellent]** – an excellent performance with strong evidence of:

- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

**70-79% [Good]** – a good performance with evidence of:

- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- some capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.

**60-69% [Satisfactory]** – a generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:

- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;
- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.

**50-59% [Minimal Pass]** – a barely acceptable performance with evidence of:

- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, which are only partially successful.

**Under 50% [Failure]** – an unacceptable performance