Homiletics

Course Syllabus
R. Kadyschuk, PhD

Module: April 18-23, 2016
Final exam Saturday April 23, 9:00 am

Introduction

In contemporary society the word ‘preaching’ evokes mixed responses not all of which are positive. Yet for people involved in virtually any religious practice, the act of preaching, whether called a sermon, message, reflection, meditation, or simply a ‘talk’, is a vital aspect of acceptable activities for communication and growth in the faith. To successfully fulfill this role, those who are called to preach must learn basic elements of preaching (called homiletics).

Such learning includes both core traditional approaches to preaching (i.e., topical, textual, and expository sermons) as well as contemporary models for effective communication of divine truth. The fundamentals of homiletics are like learning scales at the beginning of a career in piano lessons.

This Homiletics course majors on the fundamentals but also exposes you to a broader range of contemporary approaches to sermons. It is also important that you begin to perceive your own unique attributes and interests for effective presentation of 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.


Our class meets on Monday through Friday, April 18 to 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an hour recess at lunch. The final exam will be held on Saturday April 23 at 9:00 a.m.

This Homiletics course has a site on Populi.
Prerequisites: None

Relationship to Horizon’s Mission and Core Competencies

In support of Horizon College and Seminary’s mission to prepare leaders for Christian life and ministry, this course supports the following core competencies and their essential elements that are directly related to the Homiletics curriculum:

1. Skilled Communication
   a. Logic and reasoning; persuasion and influence; able to take a creative position; while taking into account the complexities of an issue; represents other points of view fairly; states a logical conclusion
   b. Communicates research content within appropriate structures/formats, engagement of helpful tools (e.g., web, books, journals, etc.) and proper attribution of sources (i.e., avoiding plagiarism).
   c. Oral presentation
   d. Use of technology and media

2. Biblical and Theological Literacy
   a. Interprets biblical passages appropriate to their genre, language, and historical and canonical context. (accessing original languages, knowing key biblical themes).

3. Contextual Awareness
   a. Applies Scripture and theology personally (devotionally), for the church (doctrine), and for contemporary society.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Cognitive - what you should know and understand:
   a. The meaning and purpose of preaching.
   b. Basic homiletical structures and principles that promote clear and effective communication of biblical truth.
   c. The relationship between form and content in preaching.
   d. The place of homiletics within the larger context of pastoral ethics and responsibilities.

2. Affective - what you should experience and value:
   a. The diverse models that are provided by others who have been effective in sermon preparation and delivery.
   b. The role of appropriate homiletical structure in effective preaching.
   c. The need to ‘rightly divide the word of truth’ both in the preparation and presentation of biblical sermons.
   d. The importance for preachers to continually improve their sermonic skills.
3. **Conative** - what you should do with these insights, attitudes, and skills:
   a. Apply the principles learned in class to the act of preaching, particularly the expository sermon.
   b. Demonstrate personal learning from the examples of experienced practitioners of homiletics.
   c. Explain the elements of change that are sought through the act of preaching.
   d. Explore the broad range of resources available for the preacher.

**Textbooks**

**Required:**

   Anderson is a concise and articulate student of homiletics. The book raises some basic questions about preaching then presents five different approaches to sermon theory and structure. An accompanying CD provides audio examples of sermons from four of the five approaches.

   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 good introduction to the essence of Stanley’s approach to preaching.

   “The Dale Carnegie organization is the world’s leading resource for public speaking mastery...” With these words the book begins; it goes on to declare: “Stand and Deliver will give you the tools you need to become an outstanding public speaker in the shortest possible time. You’ll learn how to prepare and organize a talk, whether it’s five minutes in front of a small group or half an hour before a packed auditorium. You’ll discover the real keys not just for entertaining your listeners, but for informing them, persuading them, and inspiring them to action based on your message. Perhaps most important, Stand and Deliver will show you how to take the fear out of oral presentation once and for all.”
   Wow! – that is a huge declaration. You can decide for yourself how helpful it is towards your own growth as a public speaker.

**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 Traditional 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

   - deductive approach (text -> listener); inductive approach (listener -> text)

   - cognitive approach (idea); affective approach (image)

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); integrative sermon

Note: You are not responsible for pages 127-261 of Anderson’s book during the present course; however, I will summarize the five structures in class (see pp.127-132).

8. “Stand and Deliver” - learning from Dale Carnegie
   - Basic principles; overcoming fear; using humor effectively; stories and self-references; motivating listeners to action; power of persuasion; creativity and ‘the magic formula;’ effective conclusions

9. “Me, We, God, You, We” - learning from Andy Stanley
   - facilitating the preacher’s communication journey with their audience

10. Potential Other Topics for Consideration (as time permits)
    - preaching to children and youth; sermons for special occasions; the use of sermon series in preaching; plagiarism and the pulpit; 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.)

11. Practical Preaching Assignments - in class
Course Requirements

Attendance
I assume that you will attend class regularly as defined by the Academic Policies. Class members need each other’s presence and support during the practical preaching assignments.

Assignments and Exam

1. *Extemporaneous Mini-Message and Brief Parable Devotional* (15%) - in class

**Purpose:** To experience the immediacy of speaking from the Word of God even with minimal time available for formal preparation

**Supports:**
- Core competencies / essential elements 1a., 1c., 3a
- Learning outcomes 1b, 1c, 2c, 2d, 3c

**Assignments:**
- Select a personal favorite verse (or very brief passage) of Scripture, reflect and make notes in class for about ten minutes using an outline guide provided in class, then share a mini-message of 4 to 5 minutes from that verse. (5%)
- Take a parable (assigned in class) and, within the next day or two, share a 7 to 8 minute message from that parable. (10%)

2. *Short Sermon* (20%) - in class

**Purpose:** To practice the preparation and preaching of a sermon structured in an intentional manner (e.g., expository, topical, thematic)

**Supports:**
- Core competencies / essential elements 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 3a
- Learning outcomes 1b, 1c, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3a, 3b

**Assignment:**
- Prepare and present a brief sermon (16 to 18 minutes) based on elements of homiletical structure that are appropriate for that type of sermon.

All of the above speaking assignments will be fulfilled in class during the module week.

3. *Final Exam* (35%)

**Purpose:** To test the textbook readings and classroom material from the whole course

**Supports:** Broad range of cognitive, affective and conative learning objectives

**Date of Final Exam:** Saturday April 23 at 9:00 a.m.

4. *Written Review of Stanley’s Text* (10%)
Purpose: To examine a contemporary approach to preaching as exemplified by one of today’s popular megachurch pastors

Supports:
• Learning outcomes 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b

Assignment:
  a) Read *Communicating for a Change*
  b) Write a 4 to 5 page personal reflection and critical review of the book.

  Due date: Friday May 6

5. **Sermon Analysis and Critiques** (10%)\n
Purpose: To practice the technical analysis of sermons

Supports:
• Learning outcomes 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b

Assignment:
  a) Immediately after the module week, listen to two different Sunday sermons (two different preachers) in church
  b) Complete a written critical analysis of each sermon using the form provided.

  Due date for both sermon critiques: Wednesday May 18

6. **Written Review of ‘Stand and Deliver’ textbook** (10%)\n
Purpose: To familiarize yourself with essential elements of the Dale Carnegie approach to public speaking; it is one of the most popular marketplace instructional programs for public speaking ever created

Supports: Learning outcomes 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c

Assignment:
  a) Read *Stand and Deliver*
  b) Write a 4 to 5 page personal reflection and critical review of the book.

  Due date: Wednesday May 25

Note: You will receive further details as to how to approach the two book reviews.

**Approach to Instruction**

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

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

The final exam is a means to test your growing awareness and understanding of the material covered in the course.

My approach to the format of this course is based on the assumption that an introductory course in homiletics requires:

- 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.

**Evaluation**

Procedures for evaluation are a hybrid of competency-based assessment as well as more traditional letter grades and percentages.

Evaluation forms for in-class speaking assignments use assessment criteria that may be summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horizon CBE Scale</th>
<th>U of S equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10 E - Exceeding expectations</td>
<td>A- to A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8 M - Meeting expectations</td>
<td>B- to B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 BTM - Beginning To Meet expectations</td>
<td>C- to C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 NYM - Not Yet Meeting expectations</td>
<td>F to D-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written assignments and the final exam use letter grade and/or percentage marking schemes. All assessments will be converted as required to provide corresponding values in the following list of allotments:

- **10%** Sermon analysis and critiques
- **15%** Extemporaneous mini-message and brief parable devotional
- **20%** Short sermon
- **10%** Review of *Communicating for a Change* textbook
- **10%** Review of *Stand and Deliver* textbook
- **35%** Final exam
- **100%**

**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/](http://www.biblegateway.com/))
A number of books of interest to me that are related to preaching are listed below:


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

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

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 April 2016.*

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](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.


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/preachthatcon.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.

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.