


# LS6100 Effective Communication in Leadership: On Preparing Sermons that Connect

3 credits. Prerequisites: LS5101 Communicating God's Word or Experience in Preaching

 Online Video

May 4 – July 31, 2026  
Spring 2026



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## Course Goals

### Course Description

This advanced preaching course addresses life-based sermon-preparation practices that will contribute to the connection dynamic between the preacher and the listening audience. Attention will be given to identifying biblical concepts related to effective communication, reading extensively and continually from the field of preaching, assessing the preaching practices of others, identifying critical practices, and adopting those practices in one's sermon preparation discipline. The course would be of continuing education value to those actively involved in preaching. Equally, the course would benefit those about to begin a preaching ministry.

### Relationship to Horizon's Mission

Horizon's mission is "advancing God's kingdom by preparing competent Christian leaders for Spirit-empowered life and ministry." This course will help participants become more effective communicators of God's Word.

### Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency as leaders in skilled communication students will

1. Identify existing personal sermon-preparation practices that contribute to connectivity in preaching
  - *Assessment:* Personal Reflection Exercise
2. Explore, discern, and identify key connectivity factors in preaching.
  - *Assessment:* Weekly Reading Reports (total of nine); Going Forward Paper
3. Incorporate identified practices into the ongoing discipline of sermon preparation.
  - *Assessment:* Sermon

## **Course Work**

### **Required Readings**

Of the following books, reading will consist of selected chapters, identified in the Assignment section of this syllabus.

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007. ISBN: 978-0825420191.

[DTL](#)

Charles, H.B. Jr. *On Preaching: Personal and Pastoral Insights for the Preparation and Practice of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody, 2014. ISBN: 978-0802411914.

[DTL](#)

Deere, Jack. *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Voice of God: How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions*. Updated and expanded edition. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2022. ISBN: 9780310108153.

[DTL](#)

Martin, Albert N. *Preaching in the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage, 2011. ISBN: 978-1601781192.

[DTL](#)

Norman, Steve. *The Preacher as Sermon: How Who You Are Shapes What They Hear*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, 2021. ISBN: 978-1614072454.

[DTL](#)

Overdorf, Daniel. *One Year to Better Preaching: 52 Exercises to Hone Your Skills*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013. ISBN: 978-0825439100.

[DTL](#)

Plantinga, Cornelius Jr. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists*. Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, 2013. ISBN: 9780802870773.

[DTL](#)

Quicke, Michael. *360-Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003. ISBN: 978-0801026409.

[DTL](#)

\*\*While students have the benefit of accessing their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library.

### Additional Readings

Further readings, comprising of one chapter per book, will come from each of the titles below. The readings will be available on Populi. Also, some will be available via DTL.

Alcántara, Jared E. Chapter 6, “Preach Creatively.” In *The Practices of Christian Preaching. Essentials for Effective Proclamation*, 179-213. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019. ISBN: 978-080109666.

\*Available on Populi or [DTL](#)

Haslam, Greg. Chapter 35, “Prophetic Preaching.” In *Preach the Word! The Call and Challenge of Today*, edited by Greg Haslam, 423-435. Lancaster: Sovereign World, 2006. ISBN: 978-1852404437.

\*Available on Populi

Heisler, Greg. Chapter 10, “The Holy Spirit and Anointing.” In *Spirit-Led Preaching. The Holy Spirit’s Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery*, 95-111. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-1433643361.

\*Available on Populi

Lim, Johnson. “Singapore: Preaching in the Power of the Pneuma.” In *The Future Shape of Christian Proclamation: What the Global South Can Teach Us About Preaching*, edited by Cleophus J. LaRue and Luiz C. Nascimento, 155-179. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2020. ISBN- 978-1725252509.

\*Available on Populi or [DTL](#)

Martin, Lee Roy. Chapter 2, “Fire in the Bones: Pentecostal Prophetic Preaching.” In *Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Preaching*, edited by Lee Roy Martin, 34-63. Cleveland: CPT, 2015. ISBN: 978-935931416.

\*Available on Populi

McClellan, Dave. Prologue and Chapter 1, “Something Old, Something New.” In *Preaching by Ear. Speaking God’s Word from the Inside Out*, 9-14. Bellingham: Lexham, 2014. ISBN: 978-1683592167.

\*Available on [DTL](#)

### Course Assignments and Activities

#### 1. Lecture Videos & Reports – Pass/Fail

In order to pass the course, students will watch and engage with all lecture content and in-class activities. By the due dates below, submit a 2-3 minute video report to Padlet in which you:

- 1) **affirm** that you watched the required recordings by the due date, and
- 2) **provide a brief, yet integrative summary** of the two or three most prominent ideas, practices, and thoughts, drawn from the lecture, the reading, and the sermon of the day. This would be required for Days/Lectures 1 to 9. For Day 10, provide a 3-minute

video highlighting key components from the Going Forward Paper, as well as any personal reflections from the sermon for that day.

The summary could also include questions and/or points of critical feedback.

This assignment will be marked as complete or incomplete. You are required to complete this assignment in order to pass the course.

Links to the lecture videos and Padlet can be found on the Syllabus tab on Populi. Padlet Instructions can be found on the Lessons tab on Populi.

- **Assignment length:** 28 hours total
- **Due dates:**
  - Day 1 Lecture (Introduction) & Report – May 9
  - Day 2 Lecture (Saturated with Scripture) & Report – May 16
  - Day 3 Lecture (Enriched through Reading) & Report – May 23
  - Day 4 Lecture (Connected to People) & Report – May 30
  - Day 5 Lecture (Engaged in Life) & Report – June 6
  - Day 6 Lecture (Attentive to Divine Revelations) & Report – June 13
  - Day 7 Lecture (Creative with Truth) & Report – June 20
  - Day 8 Lecture (Authentic to the Message) & Report – June 27
  - Day 9 Lecture (Empowered by the Holy Spirit) & Report – July 4
  - Day 10 Going Forward video – July 11

## 2. *Meetings with the Professor* – Formative

Students will meet with the professor at least 3 times over the duration of the course. The first meeting will be to review the syllabus and expectations; the second at the midpoint of the course; and the third at the end, to review the student's sermon.

## 3. *Personal Reflection Exercise* – 6%

Reflect on the following questions giving the greatest attention to the last bullet to “Identify 3 to 5 sermon-preparation factors, that in your estimation, contribute to the connectivity level between a preacher and an audience.” Upon completion, upload the document on Populi, doing so by or before Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Are you presently involved in preaching, and if so, where? Related, how long have you been engaged in the preaching ministry? Or are you relatively new to preaching?
- Have you had any courses or training in preaching? If so, when and where? What was the nature of the training?
- Have you read any books on preaching in the last 2 to 3 years? If so, what are the book titles?
- Have you ever arranged for someone to review your preaching for feedback and encouragement? If so, was that a positive experience?
- Do you ever view your own preaching? If so, were there any key observations?
- Identify one or two of your favorite preachers? What is it about them that draws you to their preaching?
- How would you describe your preaching? Is it expository, topical, conversational, pastoral, prophetic, mixed; etc.?

- Do you preach with an outline or manuscript? Or do you preach without notes?
- Briefly describe your process of preparing a sermon.
- If available, please provide a link to a sermon that you preached which was video recorded. Please upload the link on Populi.
- Identify 3 to 5 sermon-preparation factors that in your estimation, contribute to connectivity with an audience.
- **Related learning outcome:** # 1
- **Assignment length:** 3-4 pages, double-spaced
- **Due date:** Friday, May 8, 2026

4. *Weekly Reading Reports* – 54% (with 6% value assigned to each reading assignment)  
 A significant component of this course is weekly reading (on average of 100 pages per week). The goal is to read at least 925 pages over the duration of the course. Given time limitations, most books will be read only in part, though students will be invited (and encouraged) to read the balance of each book either concurrent with the course schedule or at a subsequent time. Weekly readings will also include a brief section from the professor's small group manual *On Preparing Sermons that Connect*, available on Populi.

The reading focus will be on exploring the material for ideas and thoughts related to the connectivity dynamic in preaching. The fundamental question is, “What can be done in the sermon-preparation experience that will contribute to connectivity with an audience when the sermon is actually preached?” The purpose of the assignment is to identify, record, and consider critical practices via a weekly reading report. Each report (a total of nine) should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font. The report should include the following:

- Your name
- Author and title of the book
- Identification and elaboration of sermon-preparation practices (explicit or implied) that can contribute to connectivity in preaching. The identification could include ideas, quotes, stories, biblical emphases, etc. Include page numbers from where material is sourced. And most importantly provide an elaboration on why the material was significant to you.
- **Related learning outcome:** # 2
- **Assignment length:** 2-3 pages, double-spaced
- **Due date:** Except for the first reading, due dates are Wednesdays before watching the next lecture video. The weekly assignment is to be uploaded on Populi.

**Important note:** If pagination in the DTL is not consistent with what is provided in the syllabus, follow chapter titles and numbers.

### Reading Schedule

- Before Day 1 Lecture
  - Read the “Introduction” to *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss. The document can be found on the course site on Populi.
  - Charles Jr., H.B. *On Preaching. Personal and Pastoral Insights for the Preparation and Practice of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
    - Preaching Magazine’s 2015 book of the year.

- Reading Assignment
      - Introduction, 9-11
      - Chapter 3- Finding Time to Study, 24-27
      - Chapter 5- Sermon Preparation, 35-39
      - Chapter 6- Why I Pray Before I Preach, 40-43
      - Chapter 8- Using Scripture in Preaching, 50-53
      - Chapter 11- Becoming a Better Expositor, 63-67
      - Chapter 16- Sermon Illustrations, 86-90
      - Chapter 18- Writing Sermon Manuscripts, 95-100
      - Chapter 19- Preaching Without Notes, 101-105
      - Chapter 20- Being Yourself in the Pulpit, 108-110
      - Chapter 21- Developing Your Style of Preaching, 111-115
      - Chapter 22- Pulpit Consistency, 116-118
      - Chapter 23- Indecent Exposure in the Pulpit, 119-123
      - Chapter 24- Pulpit Plagiarism, 124-127
      - Chapter 25- Protecting Your Voice for Preaching, 128-131
      - Chapter 29- Do You Want to be a Somebody, 148-151
      - Chapter 30- The Bottom Line of Christian Ministry, 152-156
      - Total pages required: 72 pages (book length is 156 pages)
    - **Reading Report Due Date:** Friday, May 8
- Before Day 2 Lecture: “Saturated in Scripture”
  - Read section on “Saturated in Scripture” from *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss.
  - Book Assignment: Quicke, Michael. *360-Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
    - #18 on Preaching Magazine’s 25 Most Influential Preaching Books
    - Reading Assignment
      - Introduction, 11-15
      - Chapter 2- Current Realities, 33-43
      - Chapter 3- Toward a More Adequate Model, 44-63
      - Chapter 5- The Person of the Preacher and the Power of the Scripture, just pages 86 to the top of 97
      - Chapter 6- Preaching to Changing Times, just pages 114-115, section entitled “Engage Scripture Holistically”
      - Chapter 8- Immerse in Scripture, 140-152
      - Chapter 9- Interpret for Today, just pages 153-156
      - Chapter 12- Experience the Outcomes, 194-201
      - Total pages required: 74 pages (book length is 233 pages)
  - Chapter Assignment. McClellan, Dave. *Preaching by Ear. Speaking God’s Word from the Inside Out*, Prologue and Chapter 1, “Something Old, Something New.” This book argues for a radically different way of preparation and presentation, which at its core calls for one to be totally saturated with scripture. Read the Prologue and Chapter 1 as a way of being introduced to a book that merits full reading (15 pages). The full copy can be viewed on DTL.
  - **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, May 13

- Before Day 3 Lecture: “Enriched through Reading”
  - Read section on “Enriched through Reading” in *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss
  - Book Assignment: Plantinga, Cornelius. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists*. Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, 2013.
    - Reading Assignment (In your reading, be mindful of book titles that capture your interest for future reading.)
      - Read the entire book except for Chapter 3, “Turning the Preacher’s Ear”
      - Total pages required: 119 pages (book length is 131 pages)
  - **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, May 20
- Before Day 4 Lecture: “Connected to People”
  - Read section on “Connected to People” in *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss
  - Book: Overdorf, Daniel. *One Year to Better Preaching. 52 Exercises to Hone Your Skills*
    - Reading Assignment
      - Introduction
      - Exercise 1- Commission a Sermon Prayer Group, 15-20
      - Exercise 3- Speak to Three Listening Styles, 27-32
      - Exercise 11- People Watch, 73-76
      - Exercise 15- Develop Need in the Introduction, 95-100
      - Exercise 16- Assemble a Feed-Forward Group, 101-106
      - Exercise 21- Preach with Women in Mind, 131-136
      - Exercise 22- Pray for Your Listeners, 137-140
      - Exercise 23- Assemble a Feedback Group, 141-146
      - Exercise 25- Talk to an Artist, 153-158
      - Exercise 29- Expand Your Multicultural Awareness, 179-184
      - Exercise 32- Assign Biographies to Children, 197-200
      - Exercise 36- Teach Preaching to High Schoolers, 221-226
      - Exercise 40- Conduct E-Interviews, 245-250
      - Exercise 41- Go to Work with a Church Member, 251-254
      - Exercise 50- Preach with Men in Mind, 299-305
      - Total pages required: 81 pages (book length is 319 pages)
    - **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, May 27
- Before Day 5 Lecture: “Engaged in Life”:
  - Read section on “Engaged in Life” in *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss
  - Read at least the first 100 pages of the biography or autobiography of choice, of a noted preacher/pastor, looking particularly for indicators of how they engaged in life (even as a child and/or teen), and how that in turn may have enriched their preaching. Potential book titles include:
    - Aitken, Jonathan. Foreword by Philip Yancey. *John Newton*, Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2007.

- Augustine. *The Confessions*. New York: New City Press, 1997.
- Collier, Winn. *A Burning in My Bones: The Authorized Biography of Eugene H. Peterson, Translator of the Message*. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook; 2021.
- Dallimore, Arnold A., *George Whitefield. God's Anointed Servant in the Great Revival of the Eighteenth Century*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1990.
- Dallimore, Arnold A. *Spurgeon. A Biography*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, 1985.
- Grabner, Sigrid. *In the Eye of the Storm. A Biography of Gregory the Great*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009.
- Hockenos, Matthew D. *Then They Came for Me. Martin Niemoller, The Pastor Who Defied the Nazis*. New York: Basic Books, 2018.
- Kelly, J.N. D. *Golden Mouth. The Story of John Chrysostom- Ascetic, Preacher, Bishop*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995.
- Kuhns, Oscar and Dickie, Robert. *Jan Hus: Reformation in Bohemia*. Scotland: Reformation Press, 2017.
- Marsden, George M. *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004.
- Metaxas, Eric. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010.
- Metaxas, Eric. *Martin Luther*. New York: Viking, 2017.
- Miller, Calvin. *Life is Mostly Edges: A Memoir*. Nashville: Thomson Nelson, 2010.
- Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker. Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapid: Zondervan, 2002. Though not a biography, Miller creates a fictitious character who is compelled to find again the passion and energy required for preaching.
- Moore, David. *Pastor Jack. The Authorized Biography of Jack Hayford*. Colorado Springs: David Cook, 2020.
- Oates, Stephen B., *Let the Trumpet Sound. A Life of Martin Luther King, Jr*. New York: Harper & Row, 1982.
- Peterson, Eugene. *The Pastor: A Memoir*. HarperCollins e-books, 2011.
- Young, Richard. *Joyce Meyer. A Life of Redemption and Destiny*. New Kensington: Whitaker House, 2009.
- Vaughn, Ellen and Eareckson Tada, Joni (foreword), *Becoming Elisabeth Elliot*, B&H Books, Nashville, 2020.
- Willimon, William H. *Accidental Preacher: A Memoir*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2019.
- **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, June 3
- Before Day 6 Lecture: “Attentive to Divine Revelations”
  - Read section on “Attentive to Divine Revelations” from *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss.
  - Book: Deere, Jack. *Why I am Still Surprised by the Voice of God. How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions*.
    - Reading Assignment
      - Chapter 1- The Beginning of a Friendship with God, 1-21

- Chapter 2- Awakened to the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, 21-36
  - Chapter 8- The Audible Voice of God, 129-142
  - Chapter 9- Impressions and Sensations, 143-156
  - Chapter 10- Dreams and Visions, 157-186
  - Chapter 11- Recognizing the Voice, 187-198
  - Total pages required: 95 pages (book length is 227 pages)
- Chapter Assignments:
  - Haslam, Greg, ed. *Preach the Word! The Call and Challenge of Today*, Chapter 35, “Prophetic Preaching.” Available on Populi. (14 pages)
  - Martin, Lee Roy, ed. *Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Preaching*, Chapter 2, “Fire in the Bones: Pentecostal Prophetic Preaching.” Available on Populi. (29 pages)
- **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, June 10
- Before Day 7 Lecture: “Creative with Truth”
  - Read section on “Creative with Truth” from *On Preparing Sermons that Connect*.
  - Book: Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
    - Reading Assignment
      - Foreword and Introduction, 11-20
      - Chapter 3- Psalms, 48 (bottom of page)-61
      - Chapter 5- Narrative, Part 2, 85-101
      - Chapter 6- Parables, 118-128
      - Chapter 7- Proverbs, 150-150
      - Chapter 8- Epistles, 165-177
      - Chapter 9- Apocalyptic Literature, 178-199
      - Epilogue- 201
      - Total pages required: 98 pages (book length is 238 pages)
  - Chapter Assignment. Alcántara, Jared E. *The Practices of Christian Preaching. Essentials for Effective Proclamation*, Chapter 6, “Preach Creatively.” Available on Populi.(29 pages)
  - **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, June 17
- Before Day 8 Lecture: “Authentic to the Message”
  - Read section on “Authentic to the Message” from *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss
  - Book: Norman, Steve, *The Preacher as Sermon: How Who You Are Shapes What They Hear*. Carol Stream, IL.: Christianity Today, 2021.
    - Reading Assignment:
      - Introduction, On Flower Beds, 17-20
      - Chapter 2- The Preacher as Son/Daughter, 35-46
      - Chapter 3- The Preacher as Listener, 47-56
      - Chapter 4- The Preacher as Fellow Traveler, 57-70
      - Chapter 5- The Preacher as Intercessor, 71-82
      - Chapter 6- The Preacher as Artist, 83-96
      - Chapter 8- The Preacher as Joy-Generator, 109-118
      - Chapter 9- The Preacher as Pipeline, 119-126

- Chapter 10- The Preacher as Fellow Sufferer, 127-136
  - Conclusion-A Box of Hats, 137-138
  - Total pages required: 96 pages (book length is 138 pages)
- **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, June 24
- Before Day 9 Lecture: “Empowered by the Holy Spirit”
  - Read section on “Empowered by the Holy Spirit” in *On Preparing Sermons that Connect* by H. Strauss
  - Book:
    - Martin, Albert N. *Preaching in the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2011. The book is only 67 pages long. Read the book in its entirety.
  - Chapter Assignments
    - Heisler, Greg. *Spirit-Led Preaching. The Holy Spirit’s Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery*, Chapter 10, “The Holy Spirit and Anointing.” (31 pages)
    - Chapter entitled “Singapore: Preaching in the Power of the Pneuma,” in the *Future Shape of Christian Proclamation: What the Global South Can Teach Us About Preaching*, edited by Cleophus LaRue and Luiz Nascimento, pages 136 to 157 (21 pages)
    - Total required pages: 118 pages
  - **Reading Report Due Date:** Wednesday, July 1
- Before Day 10 Lecture: No reading assignment. In the original class, students made presentations on this day. Watching the presentations is not asked for or required by directed studies students. However, do watch the sermon by Haddon Robinson.

#### 5. *Going Forward Paper* – 20%

Write a paper (6 to 7 pages, 12 point-font, double-spaced) that summarizes the main points of personal learning from this course. The paper should identify at least 5 or 6 key practices that will be adopted. Ensure that the reflection carries with it a decided practical and/or applicable component to it.

- **Related learning outcome:** # 2
- **Assignment length:** 6 to 7 pages, double-spaced
- **Due date:** Wednesday, July 8 (with 3-minute video highlights due July 11)

#### 6. *Sermon* – 20%

Video record a sermon in the latter part of June or in July. Upload the video to a video-hosting platform such as OneDrive, Google Drive, YouTube, etc. and upload the link to Populi. Include a self-assessment of the sermon (form provided on Populi). The message will be reviewed, assessed, and discussed with Dr. Strauss, with particular attention to the sermon preparation process and ultimately, level of connectivity with the audience.

- **Related learning outcome:** # 4
- **Assignment length:** 20–30-minute sermon
- **Due Date:** By or before July 31

**Estimate of Time Investment** (individual time investments may vary)

Reading: (925 pp @ 17 pp per hr)	55hrs	As scheduled	<b>Assignment Weighting</b> Pass/Fail Formative 6% 54% 20% 20%
1. Lecture Videos & Reports	28hrs	Due dates: Above	
2. Meetings with the Professor	2hrs	As scheduled	
3. Personal Reflection Exercise	2hrs	Due: May 8	
4. Reading Reports	20hrs	Due dates: Above	
5. Going Forward Paper	10hrs	Due: July 8	
6. Sermon	10hrs	Due: By July 31	
Total =		~127 hrs	

All assignments are due at 11:59pm **SK time** unless otherwise indicated.

**Course & Reading Schedule**

Lecture	Topic	Required Reading	Due Dates and Assignments
Day 1	-Welcome/Introductions -Presentation/Discussion -Review of readings -Sermon focus: H.B. Charles, “Something Good Will Come out of This” (Psalm 4)	- “Introduction” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i> - <i>On Preaching</i> by H. B. Charles (pages to be read identified above)	-Friday, May 8, Personal Reflection Exercise -Friday, May 8, Reading Report -Saturday, May 9, Day 1 Lecture & Report
Day 2	Topic: “Saturated with Scripture” -Presentation/Discussion -Review of readings -Sermon focus: Joel Gregory, “How Not to Get Shook Up When Your World Shakes Down” (Psalm 46).	- “Saturated with Scripture” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i> - <i>360-Degree Preaching</i> : by Michael Quicke (pages to be read identified above -Also Prologue and chapter from <i>Preaching by Ear</i> .	-Wednesday, May 13, Reading Report -Saturday, May 16, Day 2 Lecture & Report
Day 3	Topic: “Enriched through Reading” -Presentation/Discussion -Review of readings -Sermon focus: Alistair Begg, “Anxiety” (Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:7).	- “Enriched through Reading” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i> - <i>Reading for Preaching</i> by C. Plantinga. (pages to be read identified above)	-Wednesday, May 20, Reading Report -Saturday, May 23, Day 3 Lecture & Report

Day 4	<p>Topic: “Connected to People”</p> <p>-Presentation/Discussion</p> <p>-Review of reading</p> <p>-Sermon focus: Originally, as on video, Patricia Batten, “Lessons I Learned from My Mistakes in Preaching” Change to Alison Gerber “Who Sang This Song” (Psalm 39), on YouTube.</p>	<p>- “Connected to People” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i></p> <p>-<i>One Year to Better Preaching</i> by Daniel Overdorf (pages to be read identified above)</p>	<p>-Wednesday, May 27, Reading Report</p> <p>-Saturday, May 30, Day 4 Lecture &amp; Report</p>
Day 5	<p>Topic: “Engaged in Life”</p> <p>-Presentation/Discussion</p> <p>-Review of reading</p> <p>-Sermon Focus: Tim Keller, “How to Deal with Dark Times” (Psalm 88).</p>	<p>- “Engaged in Life” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i></p> <p>-Biography, autobiography, or memoir of choice</p>	<p>-Wednesday, June 3, Reading Report</p> <p>-Saturday, June 6, Day 5 Lecture &amp; Report</p>
Day 6	<p>Topic: “Attentive to Divine Revelations”</p> <p>-Presentation/Discussion</p> <p>-Review of reading</p> <p>-Sermon focus: Originally, as on video, Jack Deere, “On Hearing God’s Voice.” Change to J.D. Greerar, “The Demonic is Closer Than You Think”, on YouTube.</p>	<p>- “Attentive to Divine Revelations” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i></p> <p>-<i>Why I am Still Surprised by the Voice of God</i> by Jack Deere (pages to be read identified above)</p> <p>- Also chapters from <i>Preach the Word</i> and <i>Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Preaching</i></p>	<p>-Wednesday, June 10, Reading Report</p> <p>-Saturday, June 13, Day 6 Lecture &amp; Report</p>
Day 7	<p>Topic: “Creative with Truth”</p> <p>-Presentation/Discussion</p> <p>-Review of reading</p> <p>-Sermon focus: Originally, as on video, Alison Gerber “Who Sang This Song” (Psalm 39). Change to Jared Alcantara, “Suffering for Living the Good”, 1 Peter 3:8-11, on YouTube.</p>	<p>- “Creative with Truth” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i></p> <p>-<i>Preaching with Variety</i> by J. Arthurs (pages to be read identified above)</p> <p>-Also chapter from <i>The Practices of Christian Preaching</i></p>	<p>-Wednesday, June 17, Reading Report</p> <p>-Saturday, June 20, Day 7 Lecture &amp; Report</p>

Day 8	Topic: “Authentic to the Message” - Presentation/Discussion - Review of reading -Sermon focus: Andy Stanley, “Leading Yourself Well”.	- “Authentic to the Message” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i> - <i>The Preacher as Sermon</i> by S. Norman (pages to be read identified above)	-Wednesday, June 24, Reading Report -Saturday, June 27, Day 8 Lecture & Report
Day 9	Empowered by the Spirit -Presentation/Discussion -Review of reading -Sermon focus: Jack Hayford, “Spirit-Led Preaching: Context, Constraints, Convictions”	- “Empowered by the Holy Spirit” from <i>On Preparing Sermons that Connect</i> - <i>Preaching in the Holy Spirit</i> by A. Martin -Also, chapters from <i>Spirit-Led Preaching</i> , and from <i>The Future Shape of Christian Proclamation</i> .	-Wednesday, July 1, Reading Report -Saturday, July 4, Day 9 Lecture & Report
Day 10	Conclusion -With the original class, students made presentations on this day. Watching the presentations is not asked for or required by directed studies students. However, do watch the sermon by Haddon Robinson - Sermon focus: Haddon Robinson, “Preaching into the Wind” (1 Kings 22)	No required reading	-Wednesday, July 8, Going Forward Paper -Saturday, July 11, Day 10, Going Forward video (3 minute) -By or before Friday, July 31, Sermon

- Assignments will not be accepted after July 31, 2026.

## **Academic Policies**

### **General Assignment Guidelines**

Please see the [Horizon](#) & [MCS](#) Format Guide for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines. The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded. Assignments should be submitted via Populi under *Submissions* (not *Comments*). The resource at this [link](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi.

### Late Assignments and Extensions

Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. No extensions will be granted beyond the end of the course unless approval is granted by Horizon's Assistant Academic Dean.

A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

### Grading

Grade	Percentage	GPA	Descriptor
A+	97-100%	4	Exceptional
A	93-96%	4	Excellent
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good
B	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Good
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70-72%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	67-69%	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	63-66%	1.0	Minimal Pass
D-	60-62%	0.7	Minimal Pass
F	<60%	0	Failure

### Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the [Student Handbook](#).

Horizon has a subscription to software that ensures the originality of academic writing, verifies the proper citation of all sources, and detects AI-generated content. When you submit an assignment, you will automatically receive a summary on Populi that includes your submitted files along with an originality score (a high originality score is positive).

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage

In keeping with the Academic Integrity policy above, students must disclose on the title page of all assignments whether or not they have used AI and how they have used it. If the assignment has no title page, the student must disclose this to the instructor by some other means, such as in

a comment on Populi. Students are expected to follow the policy for acceptable use of AI that is published in the [Student Handbook](#).

### **Accessible Learning Services Information**

Horizon is committed to provide safe and inclusive learning environments which equalize the opportunity for students with disabilities to meet the requirements of the institution, programs, and courses. The application for Academic Accommodations begins with a student disclosing a medical diagnosis or professionally documented learning disability during the application process. Enrolled students may contact Horizon's Academic Accommodations Coordinator, Richelle Bekkattla at [rbekkattla@horizon.edu](mailto:rbekkattla@horizon.edu). All Academic Accommodations will adhere to the Guiding Principles listed in the [Student Handbook](#).

### **Class Attendance (On Campus or Livestreaming)**

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. Students are expected to be present through the delivery method that they registered for, either on campus or through livestreaming with their camera on. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss the equivalent of six hours of class (e.g., one day of a module course or two three-hours classes) without academic penalty. Students who are absent for more than this will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

### **Livestreaming Etiquette**

Students taking the course through livestreaming are required to indicate this during their course registration. While livestreaming access is available for on-campus students who are unable to attend class due to illness, on-campus students are expected to attend class in person following the class attendance policy.

If attending class online via livestream, in order to be marked present for class, you must keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session, extending the gift of full engagement. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

### **Use of Technology**

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.

- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.

In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media

### **Bibliography**

A full bibliography is available as a separate document on Populi. However, below is a list of books, that though they were not included as required reading, may be of interest to students for continued reading in the field of homiletics.

- Anderson, Chris. *Ted Talks. The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2016.
- Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority*, revised. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.
- Heisler, Greg. *Spirit-Led Preaching. The Holy Spirit's Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2018.
- Kim, Matthew D. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot. The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Massey, James. *The Burdensome Joy of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- McKenzie, Alyce M. *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010.
- Miller, Calvin. *Preaching: The Art of Narrative Exposition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Grand Rapids: Baker Academic; 1980, 2001.
- Robinson, Haddon and Larson, Craig Brian, eds. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Stanley, Andy. *Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication*. Colorado Spring: Multnomah Books, 2006.
- Stewart, James S. *Heralds of God*. Auckland: Papamoa Press, 2017, originally published 1946.
- Stroud, Dean G. (editor). *Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; 2013.

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