Houston Graduate School of Theology  
PR 720: The Art of Expository Preaching  
Spring 2014, Thursdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm  
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Email: mcosby@hgst.edu

The mission of Houston Graduate School of Theology is empowering spiritual leadership through the intellectual, spiritual, and vocational development of men and women in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

THE ART OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING SYLLABUS

I. Course Description

This course will be a study in the development and delivery of expository sermons. Students will explore the many genre of homiletics, but focus on the ways by which expository preaching explains the biblical text and enhances the hearers' appreciation and application of said texts. Additionally, this course will examine the ways by which the exposition of the biblical text serves as the basis for Christian proclamation. Students will explore a variety of approaches within the expository pattern in the development of sermons on assigned passages. Prerequisites OT 501 or NT 501 and PR 501.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Identify expository sermons as a viable method of communicating the Gospel.
2. Effectively exegete the biblical text, in an effort to prepare an expository sermon.
3. Effectively prepare and present expository sermons.
4. Effectively articulate the components and composition of expository sermons.
5. Compassionately evaluate the expository sermons of colleagues.

III. Course Textbooks

Required:  


**Recommended:**


**Related:**


**IV. Course Requirements**

- Each student will be expected to attend all scheduled class meetings.  
  5%

- Each student will be expected to complete all assigned readings before class sessions begin, write a 1-page weekly reflection paper on the readings and participate in class discussions, in an effort to articulate one’s understanding of an expository homiletic.  
  10%
- Each student will be expected to prepare and deliver a 5-minute "mini exposition" on an assigned text as a devotional beginning to each class session.  
  \[5\%\]
- Each student will be expected to preach an expository funeral or wedding homily on a text of the student's choice.  
  \[10\%\]
- Each student will be expected to participate in the oral evaluation of classmates' sermon.  
  \[5\%\]
- Each student will be expected to write a 2-3 page exegesis paper, inclusive of a sermon outline to support the exposition of the text that will be preached.  
  \[15\%\]
- Each student will be expected to preach two expository sermons at both mid-term and final examination periods of the semester.  
  \[50\%\]

V. Class and Reading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session One</td>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Introduction/ The Theology of Preaching [Lischer, pp. 1-29; Cannon, pp. 1-52]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Two</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>The Genre of Preaching/Expository Preaching [Robinson, pp. 1-72; Cannon pp. 53-94]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Three</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>The Presentation of the Expository Sermon [Robinson, pp. 73-138; Proctor, pp. 1-92]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Four</td>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>The Preparation of the Expository Sermon [Cannon, pp. 95-143; Robinson, pp. 139-220; Proctor, pp. 93-129]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Five</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>The Development of the Expository Sermon [Cannon, pp. 151-170; McMickle, pp. 1-110]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Six</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>The Delivery of the Expository Sermon [Cannon, pp. 171-184; McMickle, pp. 111-199]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Seven</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>STUDENT SERMONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Eight</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>STUDENT SERMONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Nine</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK--NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Ten</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>The Sermon in the Context of Worship refer to course handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Eleven</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>The Expository Funeral and Wedding Sermon refer to course handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Twelve</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Student Funeral and Wedding Homilies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Thirteen</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday (Special Day) Expositions refer to course handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Fourteen</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Student Funeral and Wedding Homilies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Fifteen</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>FINAL SERMONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Sixteen</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>FINAL SERMONS/COURSE CONCLUSION</td>
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</tbody>
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VI. **Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>88-90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>72-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>86-87</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>70-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>84-85</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>76-77</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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VII. **Policies**

A. Regular attendance and submission of assignments on due dates in syllabus is expected. Each student must talk to the instructor about circumstances affecting his or her ability to attend class and complete assignments. Attendance is required at scheduled classes and at the scheduled start time. The student could lose as much as a letter grade for excessive tardiness.

B. Work is expected on the due date. Students should expect a grade reduction of up to one letter grade on late papers.

C. Turnitin.com

1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to www.turnitin.com to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.
2. Students will create an account at www.turnitin.com. After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.
3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time, but they will still submit the assignments in a hard copy format.

D. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms

It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.

E. **Incomplete**

In cases of extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor, a student may request and apply for an extension on all required assignments, which are not completed by the end of the semester or term, subject to a 5-point grade reduction on the final grade of each assignment. If an extension is granted, the instructor will record a grade of “I” (Incomplete) and set an extension of time, not to exceed thirty calendar days from the end of the class, within which to complete the work. Additional extensions may be granted only by the Academic Dean or Associate Dean and only after a student has petitioned the Dean in writing. If the course work is not completed within the extended time allotment, the grade of “I” will be converted to the grade earned by the student up to that point. The student is responsible to ensure that all necessary paperwork is submitted to the registrar’s office by the deadline published in the school calendar.
F. Plagiarism
Plagiarism is presenting the work of another person as one’s own without giving proper credit for the use of the information. Students must not quote books, articles, essays, or Internet sites without giving proper credit to the author(s). Students should guard against plagiarism by crediting the original author through use of proper citations. Internet plagiarism is a particularly easy and tempting form of intellectual theft. Cutting and pasting sentences and paragraphs from the Internet without citations is plagiarism. Failure to cite Internet sources is plagiarism. Any student who is found guilty of plagiarism is subject to a range of consequences as outlined below.

1. If a faculty member suspects plagiarism, the instructor will investigate. If suspicions are confirmed, the faculty member will present the evidence to the appropriate Associate Dean as a record of the offense. If the Associate Dean concurs with the allegations, the following procedures should be implemented as applicable:
   - The faculty member may discuss the offense with the student following consultation with the Associate Dean, but the student will meet with the Associate Dean.
   - For a first offense, the faculty member, in consultation with the Associate Dean, may give opportunity for a rewrite of the assignment or may assign a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment.
   - For a particularly egregious case of plagiarism on a major assignment, the consequences could result in automatic failure of the course.

2. The student may appeal the above-mentioned decisions of the faculty member in writing to the Academic Dean.

3. The second confirmed offense will result in expulsion from school. The student will be notified by a letter from the Academic Dean. His or her only opportunity for appeal will be to the President in writing. The President’s decision will be final.

G. Library Usage
A student’s ability to get the most out of library resources will enhance the possibility of earning a high grade in this class. Therefore, students should consider using, in addition to the HGST library, one or more of the following libraries.

1. Houston Public Library—Any resident of Texas can obtain a free Houston Public Library card. Library cardholders have access to all of the books in the library system as well as the use of free interlibrary loans, meaning that HPL cardholders can borrow almost any book available. Cardholders can use the library’s website, www.houstonlibrary.org, to search the catalog and manage interlibrary loans. The website also contains links to WorldCat and other online databases that will enhance your research. The HPL location that is closest to HGST, the Collier Regional Branch (832-393-1740), is located at 6200 Pinemont, which is less than three miles from campus. A better option would be the newly expanded and renovated Central Library (832-393-1313), which is located downtown at 500 McKinney. In addition, HPL has many other locations. The HGST library can give you an application for an HPL library card, or you can print the application form from their website.

2. Fondren Library at Rice University—The Fondren Library (713-348-5113) is located at 6100 Main. Please visit www.rice.edu/fondren for more information. The procedure for borrowing books at the Fondren Library is, first, go to the online catalog [www.rice.edu/fondren] to search for available books; second, go to the HGST library
and fill out a form, signed by HGST library personnel, to take with you to the Fondren Library for each book; third, retrieve the book(s) yourself; fourth, take the book(s) and the signed form to the circulation desk to complete checkout (return the yellow copy to the HGST library; when the book(s) are returned to the Fondren Library, they will indicate so on the pink and gold copies; return the pink copy to the HGST Library and keep the gold copy for your records).

3. Lanier Theological Library is a new resource for scholarly theological research in the Houston area. The library is open to the public, Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM. The library is a research library with no circulation privileges. Nonetheless, students should consider Lanier Library to be a valuable research option. The catalog of Lanier Library is available online: http://alexandria.lanierlibrary.net/#.

4. Cardinal Beran Library at St Mary’s Seminary—the home of an extensive theological library, St Mary’s Seminary (713-686-4345) is located at 9845 Memorial Drive, only 4.6 miles from HGST. For more information, please visit http://beran.stthom.edu. The Doherty Library on the main campus of University of St Thomas is also an option.

5. Library of the Presbytery of the New Covenant – as an HGST student you have borrowing privileges at this library located at 1110 Lovett Blvd, Houston. To search their online catalog, go to http://www.phyofnewcovenant.org/cgi-bin/rqm/rqm.cgi.

6. Other options include Harris County Public Library (www.hcpl.net) and the libraries at the University of Houston and Houston Baptist University.

VIII. Notes for Writing Assignments

A. Writing assignments should conform to Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th Edition. This includes matters of style and format. Counseling students should pay particular attention to the Manual guidelines on submission of academic papers.

B. The instructor requires the use of footnotes for documentation. The student should number pages. According to Turabian, page numbers should be in the upper right hand corner, except for the first page of the paper (not counting the title page). Margins should be one inch on all four sides, except where major headings require a two-inch top margin.

C. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student not use presentation or report binders or folders. The instructor prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.

D. Critical or formal writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly. Failure to do so will be penalized.

1. Avoid 1st or 2nd person references (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.

2. Never use contractions.

3. Avoid passive voice construction (i.e. The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.
4. Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.

5. Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck! This instructor does not tolerate misspelled words. Failure to spellcheck will result in a substantive reduction on the grade for written assignments.

6. Grammar check works as well! Words are all we have as preachers. Use them properly.

7. All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.

8. Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.