HM 5000/HM 5001: Theology and Methodology of Biblical Preaching

Catalog description:
Theological foundations for preaching and sermon preparation with emphasis on biblical integrity and structural soundness. Course is divided between lecture sessions and laboratory preaching. Two hours.

Course Objectives:
At the end of this course,

• Learners will be able to defend the practice of biblical preaching.
• Learners will assess their own fitness to preach and grow in their love for biblical preaching.
• Learners will be able to select a valid preaching portion, study it, and expound it faithfully in reliance on the Holy Spirit so that their sermons will, to the best of their abilities, urge upon listeners the content and intent of their preaching text in its context.
• Learners will develop their preaching skills by practice, appreciate the value of offering and receiving constructive feedback, and consider starting or joining a preachers’ club.

Required Textbooks:


Course format:
1. Students are responsible to carefully read and digest the assigned readings prior to class sessions when concepts are reviewed and skills sharpened, i.e., we will use class time to clarify and assimilate the concepts and develop the skills.
2. Preaching opportunities in lab will be critiqued by an instructor and fellow students.
3. A written examination will help each student assess his or her own progress in assimilating concepts and developing skills.
4. Crafting a carefully argued case for biblical preaching will help each student solidify a defensible theology of preaching.

Course Expectations and Learning Assignments:

1. Since the in-class exercises are designed to foster learning and skill development, students are required to attend all lectures and labs. At the professor’s sole discretion, missed
sessions, for reasons other than illness may cost the student up to 3% of final grade per lecture hour or preaching lab hour missed.

2. Students read the required texts listed above in the following ways:
   (1) Read Smith’s Dying to Preach by class time on January 15th. Come to class prepared to interact with classmates and professor.
   (2) Read the preface, introduction, and rationale of Let the Earth Hear His Voice by class time on January 15th. Read the balance of the book no later than the dates below when each bottleneck is to be discussed. Report having done the reading and invested at least one hour on the exercises at the end of each chapter and post your work in the assignment on the class Moodle page.
   (3) Carefully read and digest Bryan Chapell’s Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon, 2nd ed., by midnight Thursday, January 28th, 2016. A cross-reference index to Chapell in the manuscript of Let the Earth Hear His Voice may help you. (If you have read this in an undergraduate program, you may read Jason C. Meyer’s Biblical Theology of Preaching. Speak to Dr. Alcántara ahead of time to get permission.)

3. Biblical Theology of Preaching Essay: Submit on the Moodle page a thoughtful, substantive, no-more-than-five-page essay (double spaced, correct margins) succinctly articulating how you would make a case for biblical exposition to a thoughtful, biblically-literate and astute parishioner. This paper is not merely to rehearse data from the readings, but rather to build upon them and demonstrate the capacity to think theologically and write clearly. It should be written in good academic style having a cover page that includes your Trinity box number, and conforming to the TIU style guide. Due by midnight Thursday, February 11th.

4. Sermons: Students will prepare and preach two sermons, both of them from New Testament epistles. They will preach not for their peers and instructor as if this were a performance, but to them as fellow believers, not to some other imaginary audience. Before class on each of the dates below, students will submit to the Moodle page for this class the first biblical text to be preached on February 16, 2016, a careful interrogation of that passage, the primary claim of their sermon, a one-page sermon outline including a brief summary of the introduction and conclusion of the first message along with five possible illustrations. Students shall also submit their interrogation of their second text on March 3, 2016, their outline of each sermon in final form in print the day they preach each sermon. Students shall preach to the best of their abilities one approximately 15-minute message on February 19-20, and one 22—24-minute message on March 11-12. Students who effectively preach without notes avoid a common pitfall of being too tied to notes, and their grades will reflect this improvement, other things being equal.

5. Peer Feedback: Students participate in a thoughtful evaluation of the content, organization, and delivery of the messages preached by their peers.

6. Midterm: There will be a one hour and fifteen minute midterm examination on Friday, February 19th. Please bring a paper Bible and your laptop computer for this exam. Email to jealcantara@tiu.edu the completed Mid-term exam as an attached Word document
immediately after you finish taking it no later than the end of class and submit it on the Moodle page. Let the instructor know beforehand if for some reason you prefer to write this exam by hand on paper.

All assignments are due on the day and time indicated on the Moodle page. I do not accept late submissions.

Assessment and Final Course grading: (assuming faithfulness in attendance at lectures and labs)
Reading and exercises 10 %
Case for biblical preaching essay 10 %
Voice Thread Discussions 10 %
Mid-term Examination 15%
First outline, interrogation, sermon 20 %
Second outline, interrogation, sermon 35 %

Written text interrogation and sermon outlines, unless they are not submitted, will be evaluated only as they contribute to the faithfulness, relevance, and clarity of the sermon as preached. Their submission to the instructor prior to preaching is for the benefit of the student. If they are not submitted, points will be deducted from the sermon grade.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
94-100 = A
90-93.9 = A-
87-89.9 = B+
84-86.9 = B
80-83.9 = B-
Same distribution in 70’s and 60’s as for 80’s.

Classroom Etiquette
1. Please make every effort to be on time to class. We will try to start on time.
2. Hydration is welcome; please do not eat in the classroom or preaching lab.
3. Restrict your use of all electronic means of communication to class-related pursuits during class times.

Class plan: We will endeavor to keep to the schedule below so that you can plan reading time to be thoroughly prepared for interaction based on assigned readings and written exercises. To facilitate class discussion, please bring print copies of interrogation, primary claim, organizational sentence, and outline to class on the days they are due.

For the following lessons, carefully read the part of the LEHHV manuscript associated with each bottleneck and complete and post the exercises.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Overview/Bottlen.</th>
<th>Possible symptoms</th>
<th>Remedies/Strategies</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/15</td>
<td>Lecture: Conceptualizing Biblical Preaching</td>
<td>Unbiblical alternatives to biblical preaching</td>
<td>A sound theology of preaching; preaching in faith; place of prayer</td>
<td>Read: Smith’s <em>Dying to Preach</em> due. Reading Report Due.</td>
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<td><strong>BOTTLENECKS</strong></td>
<td>No unction; sense of unreality, no fruit, etc.</td>
<td>Regenerate, called, equipped, gifted, deployed, repentant, obedient</td>
<td>Read: Scharf’s <em>LEHHV</em>, preface, intro., rationale</td>
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<td>01/16</td>
<td>Mini-Lecture: Biblical Theology of Preaching</td>
<td>Violating boundaries of the text; undisciplined topical or thematic approach; biblical emphases omitted</td>
<td>Discern unit of thought</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Faulty text selection</td>
<td>“Where did (s)he get that?” and, “Why didn’t I see that?”</td>
<td>Sound exegesis focused by 6 questions into thrust of the text</td>
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<td>Inadequate understanding of text: content and intent</td>
<td>Neglecting initial hearers. Disregard of contemporary listeners and their apparent needs. Faulty generalizations.</td>
<td>Audience awareness; bridging to application</td>
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<td>Inadequate contextualization to the preaching situation: What does this text require of my listeners?</td>
<td>Skeleton issues. Distor. organization One-size-fits-all organization. Excessive complexity.</td>
<td>Show how the parts of the sermon serve the content and intent of the text</td>
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<td>Faulty organization: too much, too little, distracting, etc.</td>
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<td>Possible symptoms</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/28</td>
<td><em>Assignments between classes</em></td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>Chapell Book Due</td>
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<td>between classes*</td>
<td>between classes*</td>
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<td>02/11</td>
<td><em>Assignments between classes</em></td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>Write: Five-page Essay: Biblical Theology of Preaching due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>between classes*</td>
<td>between classes*</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/16</td>
<td><em>Assignments between classes</em></td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>Sermon Prep.: Text interrog., Primary claim, one-page outline, five</td>
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<td></td>
<td>between classes*</td>
<td>between classes*</td>
<td>illustrations</td>
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<td>02/19</td>
<td><strong>Class Midterm</strong></td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>See instructions on pp 2-3</td>
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<td>Record: Voice Thread (VT) # 1 due</td>
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<td>Student Sermons <em>if time permits</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>02/20</td>
<td>Student Sermons * 15 minutes*</td>
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<td>02/25</td>
<td><em>Assignments between classes</em></td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>VT # 2</td>
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<td>between classes*</td>
<td>between classes*</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/03</td>
<td><em>Assignments between classes</em></td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>*Assignments</td>
<td>VT # 3</td>
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<td>between classes*</td>
<td>between classes*</td>
<td>Interrogation for 2nd sermon due</td>
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<td>03/10</td>
<td>Student Sermons <em>22-24 minutes</em></td>
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<td>VT # 4</td>
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<td>03/11</td>
<td>Student Sermons <em>22-24 minutes</em></td>
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<td>VT # 5 – Due by midnight 03/13</td>
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Textbooks on Biblical Preaching
Compiled by Dr. Greg Scharf, Fall 2015

Since the course concerns the theology and methodology of biblical preaching, these resources are listed in order of decreasing attention to the theology of preaching and increasing attention to specifics of sermon construction. Retail prices, ISBNs, (and in some cases, Rolffing library call numbers) are included for your convenience.


## Rubric for case for biblical preaching short essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Excellent: above expectations .93-.99</th>
<th>Good: meets or slightly exceeds the standard .80-92.9</th>
<th>Deficient: below expectations in various ways (.70-79.9)</th>
<th>Significantly below expectations (.60-69.9)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format, title page, length, pages numbered</td>
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<td>Writing style, flow, clarity, economy of expression, good use of side headings to indicate parts of essay, spelling, paragraph divisions</td>
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<td>Argumentation: logic, validity, completeness, answers objections</td>
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<td>Documentation: biblical citations accurate, copious, ideally building upon those received and not merely repeating them</td>
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</table>
Sample Outline [assuming deductive development] (not to exceed one page):

Student Name
E-mail address

Title
Passage

Introduction: “. [very short summary for your benefit] . . .”

Proposition: “. . . .”

Organizational Sentence: “. . . .”

I. “The sentence that is your first ‘main’” (anchor = e.g. vv. 1-3)
   Develop this as necessary and appropriate by:
   Validation
   Explanation
   Illustration
   Application

II. “The sentence that is your second ‘main’” (e.g. vv. 4-6)
    Develop this as necessary and appropriate by:
    Validation
    Explanation
    Illustration
    Application

III. Etc.
    Conclusion:

Notice carefully that only the mains are numbered with Roman numerals and that verse numbers in parenthesis are found after each main.