HM 5000/HM 5001: Theology and Methodology of Biblical Preaching
January 24-25, February 29-March 1, April 11-12, 2014.
[11.20.13 edition]

Disclaimer: contents subject to change until first day of class although we try our best to avoid changes!

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

Texts:
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 pricing, ISBNs (and in some cases, Rolfing library call numbers) are included for your convenience.


Scharf, Greg R. *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*. Available to registered HM 5000 students as a copyright manuscript draft. *(Required)*


**Course format:**
1. We will use class time to help each other let the word get through the bottlenecks that hinder effective preaching.
2. Class discussions and exercises will seek to integrate readings and lectures.
3. Preaching opportunities in lab will be critiqued by instructor and fellow students.
4. A written examination will help each student document progress in unclogging the bottlenecks to effective preaching.
5. A learning exercise and discussion questions written by each student for fellow students will hopefully solidify each student’s grasp of the concepts and skills that will make our preaching more faithful.

**Course expectations and learning assignments:**
1. Students shall attend all lectures and labs unless providentially hindered. *Unexcused absences may cost the student up to 3% of final grade per preaching lab hour missed.*
2. Students shall read the required texts listed above in the following ways:
   (1) Read Smith’s *Dying to Preach* by **January 16, 2014**. Report that you have done so by an email to gscharf@teds.edu with “HM 5000 reading report 1” in the subject line. In the body of the message, indicate what percentage of the reading you have completed.
   (2) Read Let the Earth Hear His Voice for a preliminary theology of preaching and methodological steps **AND** by submitting five (5) quality discussion questions that are reflective, integrative and substantive. These may be suggested by any part of the manuscript and Dr. Scharf may incorporate them into the manuscript in future editions. These five questions are due by **January 24, 2014**, **when you will include them in an email and report having completed the reading**. This manuscript will be available as a PDF from Dr. Scharf for registered students.
   (3) Carefully read and digest Bryan Chapell’s *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd ed., by **February 28, 2014**, reporting this as above upon completion.
A cross-reference index in the manuscript of *Let the Earth Hear His Voice* will help you correlate these two resources.

3. Students, having carefully read the draft of *Let the Earth hear his Voice*, shall devise one practical exercise relating to one bottleneck, either Bottleneck 3, 4, 5, or 6. The exercise shall have the following parts: a) objective, b) biblical text or texts, c) specific actions fellow students shall undertake to unclog the bottleneck, and d) a “key” to the exercise that carefully articulates what fellow students should have written in response to c) above. **Due February 13, 2014.** Examples will be given in class. The best of these exercises (modified as the instructor deems appropriate) may be used in class and included, with attribution, in the published edition of this book. This exercise shall be submitted electronically by February 13 to gscharf@teds.edu. Please label the file as follows: yoursurname Bottleneck 4 [or whichever bottleneck number applies] 2.5.14 [i.e. the date of submission in that format]. Please put your name and email address on the title page of the submitted assignment.

4. Students shall prepare and preach two sermons from New Testament epistles. They shall preach not for their peers and instructor, as if performing for them, but to them speaking God’s word to fellow believers. They shall submit to Dr. Scharf the biblical text to be preached on **February 11, 2014**, a careful interrogation of that passage on **February 13, 2014**, the proposition of their sermon on **February 18, 2014**, and a *one-page* sermon outline of the first message on **February 20, 2014**. They shall submit to Dr. Scharf a *one-page* sermon outline of the second message (with answers to the six questions) by **April 4, 2014** via email and in a final form in print the day you preach each sermon. I will give you feedback on the electronic version and you may make changes at any time. Students shall preach to the best of their abilities one 15-minute message on **March 1**, and one 22—24-minute message on **April 11 or 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. Students shall participate in a thoughtful evaluation of the content, organization, and delivery of the messages preached by their peers.

There will be a **one hour and fifteen minute midterm examination on February 28, 2014.** Please bring a paper Bible and your laptop computer for this exam. Mid-term exams will be emailed—as an attached Word document—to the instructor immediately after they are completed. Let the instructor know if you prefer to write this exam by hand on paper.

All assignments are due on the day indicated. **I do not accept late submissions.**

**Assessment and Final Course grading: (assuming faithfulness in attendance)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading, discussion questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottleneck exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First outline, sermon</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second outline, sermon</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary interrogation and written 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.

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 endeavor to be on time to class.
2. Hydration is welcome; please do not eat in the classroom.

**Class plan:** Pace will be tailored to students’ grasp of the material.

Unclogging the Bottlenecks to Christian Preaching © Greg R. Scharf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottleneck</th>
<th>Possible symptoms</th>
<th>Remedies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little faith</td>
<td>Unbiblical alternatives to biblical preaching</td>
<td>A sound theology of preaching; preaching in faith; place of prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unqualified or disqualified preacher</td>
<td>No unction; sense of unreality, no fruit, etc.</td>
<td>Regenerate, called, equipped, gifted, deployed, repentant, obedient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulty text selection</td>
<td>Violation of natural textual boundaries; undisciplined use of topical or thematic approach; biblical emphases omitted</td>
<td>Discern unit of thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate understanding of the text: content and intent</td>
<td>“Where did (s)he get that?” as opposed to “”Why didn’t I see that?”</td>
<td>Sound exegesis focused by 6 questions into thrust of the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate contextualization to the preaching situation: What does this text require of my listeners?</td>
<td>Neglect of situation of initial hearers. Disregard of contemporary listeners and their apparent needs. Faulty generalizations.</td>
<td>Audience awareness; bridging to application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulty organization: too much, too little, distracting, etc.</td>
<td>Skeleton too prominent or missing. Message distorted to fit 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate illustration</td>
<td>Failure to discern what</td>
<td>Turn the ear into an eye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
needs to be illustrated before deploying illustrations. Illustrations all of one type. Illustrations dominate the exposition

| Flawed delivery where delivery = what we do to let God’s voice be heard, believed and obeyed | Lack of credibility, self-consciousness, lack of passion, failure to master material that has mastered us. | Reading the text well; Principles and practice |

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.