

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
Homiletics I (511)
Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2008
Credit hours: 3
Teachers: Dr Joel R Beeke and Dr David P Murray
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Course Description:

The fundamentals of preaching and the making and delivery of the sermon, including the forming of a theological understanding of preaching within which the student incorporates the form, content, and purpose of preaching. Stress falls on the necessity to proclaim the whole counsel of God biblically, doctrinally, practically, and experientially.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain what true preaching is.
2. Be able to select sermon texts and topics properly.
3. Utilize the basic tools of sermon-making.
4. Understand the great need for earnest prayer and clear exegesis throughout sermon preparation.
5. Develop clear sermonic forms, propositions, and structures.
6. Compose sermons, including introductions, illustrations, applications, and conclusions.
7. Practice preach in front of the student body.
8. Know practical particulars on how to deliver a sermon.
9. Know practical particulars for a traditional order of worship.

Course Requirements:

1. The completion of the reading assignments (25% of grade). Hand in a slip of paper on the last day of class recording the percentage of the reading assignments you completed.
2. Write three sermons: the first sermon must be fully written out and handed in no later than the end of the seventh week of class; the second sermon must be written out in full or presented in note (pulpit) form and handed in by the end of the tenth week; the third sermon must be handed in in note (pulpit) form by the end of the thirteenth week (75%, or 25% of grade for each sermon).

Course Assignments

Assignments for Weeks #1-2:

Read one of the following: Adams, *Preaching with Purpose*; Chapell, *Christ-centered Preaching*; or Kistler, ed., *Feed My Sheep!* Skim or read the other two throughout the semester.

Assignments for Weeks #3-4:

1. Lloyd-Jones, chapters 10-11
2. Hoeksema, 38-44
3. Brown, 266-287
4. Bridges, 188-222
5. MacArthur, chapters 4,6,12.
6. Logan, chapter 7 (by Ferguson)

Assignments for Weeks #5-7:

1. Hoeksema, 44-58
2. Stott, 228-236
3. MacArthur, skim Part III, and read chapter 16
4. Logan, chapter 10
5. Turn in complete sermon #1 (10-12 pages double spaced), together with full sermon outline

Assignments for Week #8-10:

1. Spurgeon, chap. 4 on Public Prayer, chap. 5 on “Sermons—their Matter”
2. Bridges, 283-295
3. Lloyd-Jones—chapter 8
4. Stott, 243-261
5. Perkins, 48-68
6. Logan, ed., chapters 12, 15
7. MacArthur, chapters 14, 15, 18
8. Hoeksema, 58-70
9. Complete sermon #2—write out in full OR present in note (pulpit) form—your choice. Be sure to include outline.

Assignments for Week #11-13:

1. Lloyd-Jones, chapters 1, 3-5
2. Bridges 296-339
3. Broadus, chapter 7
4. Complete sermon #3—present in note (pulpit) form, with outline.

Course Texts

1. Major texts:

Homer Hoeksema, *Homiletics*
Don Kistler, ed., *Feed My Sheep! A Passionate Plea for Preaching*
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*

Samuel T. Logan, ed., *The Preacher and Preaching*
John MacArthur, Jr., ed., *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*
William Perkins, *The Art of Prophesying*
C.H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*
John Stott, *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*

2. Minor texts:

Jay Adams, *Preaching with a Purpose*
J.W. Alexander, *Thoughts on Preaching*
Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry*
John Brown, ed., *The Christian Pastor's Manual*
Al Martin, *What's Wrong with Preaching Today?*

Course Outline

- I. Introduction: The concept, purpose, and necessity of homiletics
- II. The theology of preaching
- III. From text to sermon – Audio visual presentation
- IV. Choosing a text or topic
- V. Exegeting your selected text or topic
- VI. Organising your sermon
- VII. Introducing a sermon
- VIII. Applying a sermon
- IX. Illustrating a sermon
- X. Concluding a sermon
- XI. Preaching a sermon
- XII. Evaluating your sermons
- XIII. The sermon in relation to the order of worship
- XIV. Practical