

PR 601—SUMMER 2019
PREACHING: Principles & Practices
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Professor Patricia Batten
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30AM-12:30PM

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I. Course Description

This course is designed to enable you to construct an expository sermon based upon the skills of exegesis. You will gain experience explaining a biblical passage and delivering a biblical sermon without notes.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

This course is an introduction to the principles of preparing relevant biblical sermons. Lectures and exercises cover a stage-by-stage explanation of how preachers think as they prepare to preach. The aim of the course is to help you understand what is required to preach effectively and to practice what you understand. Recitation sessions provide opportunity for you to preach and have your efforts recorded on dvd/video for playback and critique by the professor.

III. Course Objective (MDiv degree goals 5., 6., 7., 9.)

As a result of this course students should be able to deliver a sermon without the use of notes derived from the biblical text. In order to accomplish this, you will:

(A) Develop a basic procedure that moves you from the biblical text to a sermon based on that text.

(B) Develop skill in constructing a clear outline consisting of full, declarative sentences that relate to a basic idea. The outline should also show transitions in parentheses between the major points and if necessary the supporting points. This will be measured by handing in an outline of the final sermon for grading.

(C) Have a working definition of expository preaching.

(D) Understand the basic elements in sermon construction and what they should accomplish -- introduction, central idea (based on an exegetical idea), transitions, illustrations, development of the sermon, and conclusion. This will be demonstrated in the construction and delivery of two sermons. The first sermon will be no more than eight (8) minutes in length. The final sermon will be no more than fifteen (15) minutes in length.

(E) Begin to develop a skill in writing a sermon manuscript geared to the way audiences listen. This will be measured by the manuscript you use for your sermons.

(F) Develop an effective filing system for supporting materials used in sermons. This will be measured by a report on the system at the end of the course. Students will collect at least ten [10] new illustrations.

(G) Watch and listen to four [4] recorded sermons and determine what makes an effective sermon.

IV. Course Textbooks

REQUIRED:

Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014). · ISBN-10: 0801049125

E.M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer* (various publishers). ISBN-10: 144866358X
ISBN-13: 978-1448663583

Stott, John, *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983). ISBN-978-0-8028-0627-7

Keith Willhite and Scott M. Gibson, eds. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998). ISBN-10: 0801091586
ISBN-13: 978-0801091582

Choose two texts from the recommended reading list. Read *at least* one book from a different cultural, ethnic, racial or gender perspective.

RECOMMENDED:

Jared Alcantara, *Learning from a Legend: What Gardner C. Taylor Can Teach Us About Preaching*. (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016).

Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd ed.

(Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).

H.B. Charles, *On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching*. (Chicago: Moody, 2014).
ISBN: 978-0-8024-1191-4

Fred Craddock, *Preaching*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985).

Tony Evans, *The Power of Preaching: Crafting a Creative Expository Sermon* (Kingdom Pastor's Library). (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2019) ISBN: 978-0-8024-1830-2

Scott Gibson and Matthew Kim, editors. *Homiletics and Hermeneutics: Four Views on Preaching Today*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018) ISBN: 97808020567

Gonzalez and Jimenez, *Pulpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Sydney Greidanus, *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).
ISBN: 0-8028-0360-1

Tim Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*. (New York: Viking, 2015).

Julius Kim, *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: Design and Deliver Gospel-Centered Sermons*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015).
ISBN: 978-0-310-51963-8

Alice Mathews, *Preaching that Speaks to Women*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003).
ISBN: 0-85111-990-5

Calvin Miller, *Preaching*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006).

John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990). ISBN: 9780801065040 OR John Piper, *Expository Exultation: Christian Preaching as Worship*. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2018).

Robert Smith, *Doctrine that Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life*. (Nashville: B&H, 2008).

V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at lectures and exercises.

2. Develop a filing system for collecting supporting material for sermons. The system can be on 3x5 cards, 4x6 cards, or on a computer. During the course of the semester, collect and file at least ten (10) new illustrations. You will report whether you have completed this assignment on the last day of class.

3. Read Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*. Rather than read the book in a single sitting or two, you will profit more through reading it section by section as it is discussed in class. Note the recommended pages for each session in the syllabus.

4. Read Stott, *Between Two Worlds*. In your report, be sure to answer the following questions:

What is the central idea of the book?

What did you find that was new to you?

With what did you disagree?

Your report should be no more than three (3) pages, double-spaced.

5. Read two books from the recommended reading list. One must be written by an author outside of your own cultural, racial, ethnic, or gender perspective.

6. Complete reading for Bounds (*Power Through Prayer*).

7. Complete reading for Willhite/Gibson (*The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*) and hand in one page with the subject/complement for each chapter.

8. You will explain a passage or aspect of a passage so that the audience understands it. This will be a six (6) minute explanation **without notes**.

9. Prepare an outline and a manuscript for a complete sermon that both explains and applies the passage. This will be a fifteen (15) minute message delivered without notes. The manuscript and outline are due the day you preach.

10. Listen to the sermons found on Canvas for 601, then meet with a small group from your class to discuss them. Spend a minimum of 1½ hours in discussion. Use the discussion questions on page eleven (11) of this syllabus for your analysis. Dig deep. Analyze. OR, instead of meeting with a small group to discuss the sermons, you may choose to answer the questions on page eleven (10) of this syllabus for each sermon that you listened to. Please write out the questions on each page. The sermons/discussions are due by the last day of class.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for the class. If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be at class on time.

B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

See the calendar in the catalog. All late work will be penalized. Please do not email your assignments. Print them out and bring them to class on the day they are due. You may upload them to CAMS.

VII. Grading

The percentage categories on the back sheet of the syllabus equal 100. However, since this is a skills course, I take into consideration improvement in the student's performance in oral assignments. Conversely, a digression in a student's performance is also a factor that goes into grading.

If one does not collect all the illustrations required for the course, then the student will lose 5 points. Likewise, not reading the textbook has point-deducting consequences (10 points). This will especially come into play if a student is border-line between grades.

As for all written assignments, I am looking for good use of grammar, interaction with the material, spelling, etc. The Student Handbook spells out the rigorous call for excellence in all grading assignments, which will be followed in the course. See below.

The Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Student Handbook states:

Grade A is given for meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination.

Grade B is given for exceeding the minimum satisfactory attainment and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence.

Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.

Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material.

Grade F declares that the course has been failed.

VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC/DISCUSSION	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Monday May 20	<i>Introduction; Hopes & Fears</i> <i>Worlds of the Expositor</i> <i>What is Expository Preaching?</i>	Read Robinson, Preface and chapter 1.
Wednesday May 22	<i>What's the Big Idea?</i> <i>Essentials of a Well-Planned Sermon</i>	Reading due: Robinson, chapter 2. Assignment due: Do the exercises at the back of the book for this chapter. Reading due: Robinson, chapter 3. Do the exercises at the back of the book for this chapter.
Friday May 24	<i>Do I Have Anything to Preach?</i> <i>Application: The So What of Biblical Preaching</i>	Reading due: Robinson, chapter 4. Do the exercises at the back of the book for this chapter.
Monday May 27	NO CLASS Memorial Day	
Wednesday May 29	<i>The Idea & Why We Preach It</i> Discuss six-minute explanation exercises	Reading due: Robinson, chapter 5. Do the exercises. Reading due: Robinson, chapter 6.
Friday May 30	EXPLANATION EXERCISES	
Monday June 3	EXPLANATION EXERCISES	
Wednesday June 5	<i>The Shapes Sermons Take</i>	Reading due: Robinson, chapter 6. Do the exercises.

	<i>Outlines: The Skeletons of Sermons</i> <i>Supporting Material</i>	Reading Due: Robinson, chapter 7. Do the exercises.
Friday June 7	<i>Taking Off & Landing Well</i> <i>Style & Delivery</i>	Reading due: Robinson, chapter 8. Do the exercises. Readingn due: Robinson, chapter 9. Do the exercises.
Monday June 10	FINAL SERMONS	Due: Outline & manuscript
Wednesday, June 12	FINAL SERMONS	Due: Outline & manuscript
Friday, June 14	FINAL SERMONS	Due: Outline & manuscript Due: Reading Report (found on page nine (9) of this syllabus.) Due: Stott report Due: Sermon Analysis/Small Group Meetings. See Reading Report, page nine (9) of this syllabus.

A PERSONAL NOTE: My goal in this course is to do everything I can to help you become an effective communicator of God’s Word. I don’t want the course to be an excessive burden to you and I have done my best to keep the requirements reasonable. Help me to help you by doing the assignments when they are due and do them with some thought and reasonable care.

IX. Your Sermon Will be Judged on the Following:

A. Content:

- a. Is the sermon clear? Is it well organized? Does it flow easily? Does the audience understand you?
- b. Does the sermon have effective content? Is it based on sound exegesis? Does it have good supporting material and relevant illustrations?

B. Delivery:

- a. Does your delivery sound as though you really want to communicate? Does your voice have variety? Are you enthusiastic?
- b. Does your body support what you are saying? Do you have eye contact that is direct and personal? Do you use gestures?
- c. Do you want to be heard? Do you demonstrate conviction and sincerity?

READING REPORT—PLEASE HAND IN ON LAST DAY OF CLASS

Name _____ Box _____

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Preaching Principles and Practice
in Preparing Relevant and Biblical Sermons
Summer 2019
Professor Patricia Batten

Did you attend all classes? Yes _____ No _____

If “no”, how many did you miss? _____ (give number)

How many illustrations did you collect? _____ /10 (give number)
(deduction will be taken off of final grade for failure to turn in this assignment)

Did you complete the sermon listening exercise? _____

How many sermons did you listen to? _____

Did you develop a file system? Please describe:

Have you read Robinson’s Biblical Preaching? _____
How many pages? _____

Did you read E.M. Bounds; Piper; Gibson/Willhite; two books from the recommended reading list? How many pages of each? _____

Report on Stott _____ (grade) 10%

Six minute explanation exercise _____ (grade) 20%

Fifteen minute sermon & manuscript _____ (grade) 40%

Fifteen minute sermon outline _____ (grade) 15%

Reading Report & Class participation
(including Sermon Listening Exercise) _____ (grade) 15%

(Late work will be penalized)

Course Grade _____

Questions to Consider When Listening to or Reading a Sermon

For the CD listening assignment: Please write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific—give examples for what is asked.

1. What do you think is the main idea or concept the preacher was trying to get across? Please state it and analyze and comment on it.
2. When through with the introduction, did you want the preacher to go on? Y/N Did it capture interest so that you would want him/her to continue? Y/N How did he/she do? Analyze and comment.
3. Did he/she illustrate? Y/N If so, what did he/she do? – to explain, prove or apply? Did he/she succeed? Y/N Why or why not? Analyze and comment. You must provide specific examples of how the preacher explained, proved or applied the text.
4. Do you think the conclusion drove home the main idea of the sermon in a way that caused you to want to respond? Analyze and comment.
5. What do you think that you as a listener might do, think or change as a result of hearing the sermon?
6. Do you think the delivery helped or hindered the presentation? What were its strengths? What about weaknesses? Analyze and comment.
7. Do you think that the sermon grew out of the biblical text? Or was it imposed on it? Analyze and comment.