

CAPSTONE PREACHING SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course challenges Th.M. students to prepare and deliver a portfolio-quality sermon that demonstrates their ability to apply exegetical, theological, and homiletical skills learned throughout their seminary education. **Required of Th.M. students during the last 30 credit hours of their program.** Prerequisite: PM5104. *1 hour.*

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

A. Cognitive Objective

Through interactions with multiple sermons (both recorded and live), students will have apprehended a hermeneutical approach that develops valid application based on the theological thrust of a biblical pericope and a homiletical approach that is text-centered and audience-focused.

B. Affective Objective

Through public reading of Scripture and their own preaching, students will have developed and displayed appropriate passion for the text and concern for the audience.

C. Behavioral Objectives

1. Students will have prepared and delivered a sermon that is TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR in organization and presentation, RELEVANT to the listeners' specific needs, and INTERESTING to the audience.
2. Students will have read Scripture with interpretive skill and expressive delivery.
3. Students will have critically listened to and analyzed others' expository preaching.
4. Students will have interacted in a critical assessment of *Homiletics and Hermeneutics: Four Views on Preaching Today*.

D. Rationale

This 1 credit-hour course serves as a capstone course. Whereas PM5103 and PM5104 provide exegetical, theological, and homiletical assistance from a professor prior to delivery of the sermon, this course will more closely approximate the comprehensive preaching skills needed after seminary (text selection, theological exegesis, homiletical preparation, and delivery without the benefit of a professor's assistance).

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Gibson, Scott M. and Matthew D. Kim. *Homiletics and Hermeneutics: Four Views on Preaching Today*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018. 177 pages.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Listening to Sermon Examples (5%)

Several sermon examples will be discussed in the initial class meetings so that students extend their knowledge of foundational features of exposition. These video examples are to be viewed and analyzed *prior* to the class period in which they will be discussed.

B. Working in Preaching Teams (10%)

Students will work with 2-3 colleagues to assist and gain assistance in preparation of sermons.

C. Homiletical Outline and Manuscript (11.25%)

Text Selection: Each student must submit her/his proposed preaching text via Canvas by the designated date. The professor will either approve the selected text or suggest the student choose a more “preachable” pericope. Ultimately, the choice of preaching text(s) will be left up to the student. Preachers are responsible for informing members of their individual preaching teams about the text that will be preached.

Each student will prepare and submit on Canvas, by noon of the day before delivery of the sermon, a single document providing a **full sentence, homiletical outline** of the sermon and a sermon manuscript. The outline is to be carried to three levels of subordination (i.e. I. A. 1. 2. B. II. A. B. 1. 2.), using short, homiletical statements and clear transitions. The theological proposition and homiletical proposition (HP) are to be stated at the top of the outline, and the HP is to be designate in the outline where it will occur in the sermon.

Students also submit a fully developed **double-spaced manuscript**. The sermon manuscript must corroborate with the homiletical outline. A **deduction** of two marks (A- to B; B+ to B-; etc.) will occur for lateness and/or inferior quality. A comprehensive manuscript for a 20-minute sermon should be approximately 8-10 pages, double spaced, Students will be expected to talk/think their way through their manuscripts at least FIVE TIMES before presenting their sermons in class. The goal is not word for word memorization, but rather mastery of the flow of the material.

The manuscript should reflect to the fullest extent every word the student expects to say in the oral presentation (i.e., all transitions, restatements, Scripture readings, illustrations, etc. should be written out fully). The manuscript should be written as a sermon to be heard, not as a term paper or article to be read.

D. Capstone Sermon (60%)

Students will preach a 20-minute sermon based on the text of their choice. The sermon should be preached with a Dallas Theological Seminary Chapel audience in mind (both male and female students, staff, and faculty). One grade level (e.g., B+ to B) will be **deducted** for every thirty seconds over the time limit.

Students will not be allowed to speak unless they submit the full outline and manuscript prior to the class period during which they preach. Failure to speak at the appointed time, either for unexcused absence or incomplete preparation, will result in no credit for that sermon, and risks failure of the course.

All sermons will be recorded on seminary equipment and made available for the student’s viewing. Students taking the course through remote access are expected to be present on the day they are scheduled to preach.

With permission from the professor and assurance that a high quality recording may be attained, students may record their sermons in front of a church or parachurch audience. These pre-recorded sermons will be viewed and critiqued by classmates as all other sermons. Specific stringent standards must be followed.

Sermons are scored using strict criteria in a rubric. Sermons that earn a grade of C (80) or lower may be revised through directions provided by the professor. Revised sermons have the potential to earn higher scores.

E. Sermon Viewing Report (3.75%)

Students will complete a careful viewing of their recorded sermon with special attention to comments made by the professor and colleagues. Reflections are recorded in a Canvas-based report.

F. Scripture Reading (P/F)

Each student will prepare and perform an interpretative reading of her/his preaching text, or a portion of that text, up to 4 minutes in length. A brief critique will be prepared by the professor and any deficient readings will require a resubmission. A Pass/Fail will be given for this assignment, and failure to complete this assignment will result in a 5% reduction in the course grade.

G. Homiletics and Hermeneutics Critique Paper (10%)

Students will perform careful, critical reading of Gibson and Kim's *Hermeneutics and Homiletics: Four Views on Preaching Today*. While reading, produce a detailed outline of the text. In the margin, (using the *Review* function of MS Word or the *Comment* function of Acrobat) students provide their interactions with selected sections. These interactions include 1) Points needing clarification; 2) Points where the student expresses personal affirmations or concerns.

As a conclusion to the outline, assume you take Kuruvilla's view of christiconic preaching (regardless of whether you agree with that view). Then write a 2-paragraph rejoinder, from a christiconic perspective, to the responses given to Kuruvilla's chapter by the other contributors (Chapell, Langley, and Wilson), and by the editors (Gibson and Kim in their concluding chapter).

Schedule permitting, your contributions will be discussed at a final meeting of the class near the end of the course.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Paper Submissions

All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas in pdf format. Attendance, text selection, and most other communication also will be reported via Canvas and/or MS Teams.

B. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

1. 5% Interacting with Sermon Examples
2. 10% Preaching Team Participation
3. 75% Homiletical Outline, Manuscript, Sermon Presentation, & Viewing Report
4. 10% *Homiletics and Hermeneutics* Interaction

C. Class Participation

Attendance and class participation are a requirement of the course and, more importantly, a ministry to other students, especially when they are presenting outlines or speaking. Students should plan to attend and participate in every required class session according to their cohort.

All students will attend the first five class sessions. From then on they will be divided into cohort groups and will attend class only during the five sessions when their cohort meets.

D. Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made.

E. Absences

Attendance is both a requirement of the course and, more importantly, a ministry to other students, especially when they are speaking. Attendance will be reported, so do not be absent more than 1 class period. More than one absence will result in a penalty. Each absence above the one allowed will result in a 4% reduction in grade.

F. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+	99-100	B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69
A	96-98	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74		
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71		

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.