

CAPSTONE PREACHING SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course challenges Th.M. students to prepare independently 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: PM104. *1 hour.*

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

A. Cognitive Objective

Students will apprehend a hermeneutical approach that develops valid application based on the theological thrust of a biblical pericope.

B. Affective Objective

Students will practice reading Scripture and preaching with appropriate passion for the text and demonstrable concern for the audience.

C. Behavioral Objectives

1. Students will prepare and deliver 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 read Scripture with interpretive skill and expressive delivery.
3. Students will critically listen to and analyze others' expository preaching.
4. Students will write 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 PM103 and PM104 provide exegetical, theological, and homiletical assistance 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. Text Selection

Each student must submit her/his proposed preaching text to the professor before or during the second class period. 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.

B. Defense and Explanation Paper (15%)

At the beginning of the class period during which s/he will preach, each student will submit a 2 to 4 page paper, explaining and defending her/his exegetical/theological conclusions and explaining her/his homiletical decisions.

C. Homiletical Outline and Manuscript (20%)

Each student will prepare and submit, by noon of the day before s/he preaches, a typed, **full sentence, homiletical outline** of her/his sermon carried to three levels of subordination (i.e. I. A. 1. 2. B. II. A. B. 1. 2.) and a separate, fully developed, typed, **double-spaced manuscript**. Of course, the homiletical outline and the sermon manuscript should be consistent. A **deduction** of

two marks (A- to B; B+ to B-; etc.) will occur for lateness. If a student is not on campus the day before she/he preaches, rather than making a special trip to campus, she/he may e-mail the outline and manuscript to the professor to confirm that the final outline and manuscript have been completed. **A paper copy of the outline and manuscript will be handed to the professor at the beginning of the class period during which she/he preaches.** A 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. Outlines and/or manuscripts that are deficient will be returned to the student after the sermon for corrections. An appropriate **passing grade will not be given** for any sermon until proper corrections are submitted to the professor.

D. Capstone Sermon (40%)

Students will preach a 20-minute sermon **without notes** 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 turn in a full, typed homiletical outline (carried to three levels of subordination) and a separate, full, double-spaced, typed manuscript to the professor by the beginning of 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. After viewing the sermon, the student will turn in a "Sermon Viewing Report" (copies available on the course web site).

Sermons that do not earn a grade of B- (86) or higher must be revised and re-preached during one of the remedial sessions at the end of the semester. Repeated sermons have the potential to earn higher scores.

E. Scripture Reading (10%)

Each student will prepare and perform an interpretative reading of her/his preaching text, or a portion of that text, up to 3 minutes in length. The Scripture reading will be recorded as a class presentation. A brief critique will be prepared by the professor and any deficient readings will require a resubmission.

F. Homiletics and Hermeneutics Paper (15%)

After a careful reading of Gibson and Kim's *Hermeneutics and Homiletics: Four Views on Preaching Today*, students will write a 5 page paper (double spaced; 11-pt font; no footnotes necessary). Structure your Hermeneutics and Homiletics paper this way:

Introduction: In one sentence (subject complement) summarize Kutuvilla's christiconic hermeneutic ("Christiconic View", pp. 43-70) then describe it in your own words [1 page].

Body:

- A. Summarize Chapell's "Response to Abraham Kuruvilla", pp. 71-73. [1 page].
- B. Summarize Langley's "Response to Abraham Kuruvilla", pp. 74-76. [1 page].
- C. Summarize Wilson's "Response to Abraham Kuruvilla", pp. 77-80. [1 page].
- D. Summarize "Conclusion by Gibson and Kim," pp. 157-163. Pay attention to what these authors say about Kuruvilla's contribution in their "Compelling Elements" and their "Matter for Consideration" under both "Observations on Hermeneutics" and "Observations for Homiletics." [1 page]

Conclusion: Summarize your response to Kuruvilla's thesis and the responses [1 page]

This Hermeneutics and Homiletics paper will be submitted to the professor's PM Office (either by electronic submission on Canvas or by hard copy to the PM office) by December 3, 2019.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Paper Submissions

All papers must be typed in double spaced format with at least 1-inch margins and include the student's name, the student's file number, and the course number (PM292).

B. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

1. 15% Defense and Explanation Paper
2. 20% Homiletical Outline and Manuscript
3. 40% Capstone Sermon
4. 10% Scripture Reading
5. 15% *Homiletics and Hermeneutics* Critique Paper

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 kept, so do not be absent more than four class periods. More than four absences will result in a penalty. Each absence above the four 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.

Capstone Preaching PM5110A Fall 2020 – Schedule

Each student will be placed in a cohort with 9 other students. All students will be required to attend 10 sessions as follows:
(1) Attend the 1st 5 class periods plus (2) Attend 5 days for sermon presentations for their particular cohort.

No.	Date	Topic	Notes	Due
1	8/25	Introduction & Review	Everyone attends	
2	8/27	Hermeneutics for Homiletics	Everyone attends	Text Selection Due
3	9/1	Reading the Scriptures	Everyone attends	Class Notes
4	9/3	Reading the Scriptures	Preachers 1-10	Preachers 1-10
5	9/8	Reading the Scriptures	Preachers 11-20	Preachers 11-20
6	9/10	NO CLASS	Prep Time	
7	9/15	Cohort 1 Sermons	Only Preachers 1-10	Preachers 1/2
8	9/17	Cohort 2 Sermons	Only Preachers 11-20	Preachers 11/12
9	9/22	Cohort 1 Sermons	Only Preachers 1-10	Preachers 3/4
10	9/24	Cohort 2 Sermons	Only Preachers 11-20	Preachers 13/14
11	9/29	Cohort 1 Sermons	Only Preachers 1-10	Preachers 5/6
12	9/31	Cohort 2 Sermons	Only Preachers 11-20	Preachers 15/16
13	10/6	Cohort 1 Sermons	Only Preachers 1-10	Preachers 7/8
14	10/8	Cohort 2 Sermons	Only Preachers 11-20	Preachers 17/18
15	10/13	Cohort 1 Sermons	Only Preachers 1-10	Preachers 9/10
16	10/15	Cohort 2 Sermons	Only Preachers 11-20	Preachers 19/20
17	10/20	Remediation (if needed) ¹	Remedial students only	TBD
18	10/22	Remediation (if needed)	Remedial students only	TBD
19	10/27	Remediation (if needed)	Remedial students only	TBD
20	10/29	Remediation (if needed)	Remedial students only	TBD
21	11/3	Remediation (if needed)	Remedial students only	TBD
22	11/5	NO CLASS		
23	11/10	NO CLASS		
24	11/12	NO CLASS		
	11/16-20	<i>Reading Week</i>		
	11/23-27	<i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>		
25	12/1	NO CLASS	H&H Paper Due on or before this date – PM Office	
26	12/3	NO CLASS		
27	12/8	NO CLASS		
28	12/10	NO CLASS		

Cohort 1		Cohort 2	
1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	

¹ Students failing to demonstrate competency will have opportunity to improve their sermons and deliver them a second time.