



PR 645 Preaching Christ: Recovering Preaching as the Christ Event
Tuesday-Saturday, May 20-24, 2014
Room: A2133
9:00am-4:00pm
Instructor: Brian Buhler
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Course Description:

The Emmaus encounter with the risen Jesus has become a model for the church's worship: Christ in the exposition, Christ at the table, and Christ in our mission.

This class will explore Christ-centered preaching in its liturgical setting as doxological, prophetic, and sacramental speech. Its focus will be on the priority, pattern, and practice of expository preaching as the "Christ Event" within the context of corporate worship. Some of the related topics will include: preaching Christ from the whole bible, preaching redemptive sermons, and preaching as the prelude to Eucharistic encounter.

Each student will be encouraged to preach Christ in a way that's consistent with their unique personality and gifts.

Course Texts:

1. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Baker Books, 2004.
(Baker, 2005).
2. Darrell W. Johnson, *The Glory of Preaching: Participating in God's Transformation of the World*, IVP Academic, 2010
3. Sydney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*, Eerdmans, 1999.

Suggested Further Reading:

John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*.

Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*.

Simon Chan, *Liturgical Theology*.

John Stott, *Between Two Worlds*.

Anticipated Objectives:

1. **Understand** the unique role preaching plays in the context of the church's corporate worship experience. (Preaching as Doxological Kerygma)
2. **Appreciate** the theological foundations of Christ-centered preaching and its development through church history. This includes the unique relationship between word and sacrament.
3. **Discuss** with biblical and theological discernment the practical challenges that contemporary preachers face in developing and maintaining a Christ-centered life and preaching ministry.
4. **Develop** the practical hermeneutical and homiletical skills necessary in preaching Christ-centered messages that transform both preacher and people.
5. **Engage** the class material with a view towards one's own unique personality, gift, and style.
6. **Continue** to grow in the praxis of Christ-centered sermon development and delivery.

Assignments:

1. **Reading:** 20

Students will read 950 pages from the three required texts.

2. **Written Book Review(s):** 25%

Provide an executive summary of the book's major themes (3 pages), as well as a thoughtful outlining of which of the author's ideas were the most helpful in your understanding and appreciation of biblical preaching (4 pages). 7 pages max.

3. **Written Sermon:** 40%

Write a full manuscript of a sermon (no more than 8 pages). The sermon must be developed from a single biblical text or narrative. It must possess a:

- Big Idea (expressed in a single propositional sentence)
- Clear FCF (Fallen Condition Factor)
- Clear identification of the redemptive signals or motifs (grace!)
- Clear Christological focus
- Points developed from the text
- Conclusion leading to a point of decision or response

4. **Class Participation and 10 Minute Sermon:** 15%

This includes class discussion, and a brief sermon presented to the class on Saturday. Clear expectations and directions for the sermon will be provided early in the week.

Due Dates for Assignments:

The book reviews, written sermon, and written confirmation of reading must be emailed to the instructor no later than July 31, 2014.

Important Notes/Dates:

Include here such information as is relevant to the course but not listed above.

The last day to enter a week-long course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial and academic penalty (**drop**): 4 PM of the first day of classes. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. If you wish to drop a class, please drop by the Registrar's Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. If you wish to change to audit, please drop by the Registrar's Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**): 1 pm on the fourth (4th) day of your class. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor. Requests for course extensions beyond the semester must be submitted to the Registrar's Office one month before the final assignment is due. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.