

Preaching in a Shifting Culture

3 credits

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	
Days	April 27 – May 1	Instructor:	Terry Young, PhD, MDiv, BTh Mark Buchanan, MA, MCS, BA, BFA Bill McAlpine, PhD, MDiv, Ba	Last day to add/drop:	End of the first day
Time:	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Email:	tyoung@ambrose.edu mbuchanan@ambrose.edu bmcalpine@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	n/a
Room:	A2131	Phone:		Last day to withdraw from course:	1 pm on the 4 th day of classes
Final Exam day		Office:		Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	One month before final due date
There are no final exams for spring classes.		Office Hrs:		Last day of classes:	

Course Description:

Effective preaching in any culture at any time requires that the preacher love the message they preach and the people to whom they preach it. This course both assumes and encourages such love. It also invites the student into a conversation regarding the impact that the cultural shifts of the twenty-first century are having on the preaching ministry of the church. The student will also be guided into a consideration of various methods of sermon preparation and delivery that reflect sensitivity to the shifting culture while maintaining a loyalty to the unchanging message of the Gospel.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Assuming a dependence on the Holy Spirit on the part of instructors and students alike, by the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical theology of preaching,
2. Describe some of the dominant contemporary challenges currently facing the preacher today
3. Answer the question: 'What is the Gospel?'
4. Wrestle with the challenge of faithful biblical preaching in a TGIF (Twitter/Google/Instagram/Facebook) Culture.
5. Discover and discuss several creative strategies for preaching that connects with an increasingly diverse

audience.

6. Come away from this course with practical methods and skills for moving effectively from immersion in the text to the moment of preaching

Course Schedule:

To be distributed in class.

Requirements:

A. Select ONE (1), and only one of the following (20%):

- a. Create a 12-month preaching schedule that would include Sermon topics and specific texts for each week. The schedule should demonstrate the student's understanding and appreciation of principles presented during class as well as insights gained from the required reading (Eswine and Sweet).
- b. Write a two-page took kit contribution on one of the recommended texts (other than a text chosen for your other reading requirement), or
- c. Listen to three (3) sermons and provide a one page evaluation of each sermon.

B. *Reading Reflection (25%):* Both required texts are to be read carefully and completely. In addition the student is to read an additional 500 pages from the recommended and suggested for further reading list included in this syllabus. The learner is to write a four to six page synthesis / response to ONE (1) of the required texts indicating ways in which you found them helpful in addressing the challenges of preaching in a shifting culture, or ways in which you would say they failed to do so.

C. *Preparation and Delivery of Sermons (20%):* The student is to prepare and deliver two messages which are to be recorded and sent to the instructors through the Moodle site for assessment. (See below for instructions on submitting recorded sermons). The ideal context in which to preach your sermons is an actual service or worship gathering. However, recognizing this may not be possible for all students alternative provisions may include preaching to a small group or ad hoc group of family and friends, or recording your messages by means of a webcam on your computer or other digital recorder. Each sermon is to be approximately 15 minutes in length (grace extends to 17 minutes beyond which THERE IS NO GRACE!)

D. *A comprehensive theology of preaching in a shifting culture (25%):* The student is to provide a synthesis of the reading done in this course and articulate his/her own theology of preaching.

E. *Reading Report (10%):* The student is to provide a statement indicating that all the required reading has been completed as well as a list of all collateral reading completed.

Attendance:

We will miss you terribly if you are not here! Furthermore, if you miss more than 20% of the class (that is the equivalent of one full day) you will unfortunately forfeit credit for the course.

Textbooks:**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Eswine, Zach. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Sermons that Connect with our Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Sweet, Leonard. *Giving Blood: A Fresh Paradigm for Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Anderson, Kenton C. *Choosing to Preach: A Comprehensive Introduction to Sermon Options and Structures*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Johnson, Darrell W. *The Glory of Preaching*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2009.

Knowles, Michael P., ed. *The Folly of Preaching: Models and Methods*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.

FOR FURTHER READING:

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. *So You're Looking For a New Preacher*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992 Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Allen, Ronald J. and Barbara Shires Blaisdell, Scott Black Johnston *Theology for Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Anderson, Kenton *Choosing to Preach: A Comprehensive Introduction to Sermon Options and Structures*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Arthurs, Jeffery. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2007

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich *Worldly Preaching*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.

Brooks, Phillips. *The Joy of Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Classics, 1989.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*. Minneapolis, WI: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1989.

Buttrick, David *Homiletic*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

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- _____. *A Captive Voice*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.
- Claypool, John. *The Preaching Event*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1980.
- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003.
- Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.
- Cox, James W. *Preaching*. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1985.
- Dally, John A. *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*. Herndon, VI: The Alban Institute, 2008.
- Edwards, J. Kent. *Deep Preaching*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2009.
- English, Donald. *An Evangelical Theology of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Eslinger, Richard L. ed. *Intersections: Post-critical Studies in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994.
- Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
- Gallo, Carmen. *Talk Like TED: The 9 public speaking secrets of the world's top minds*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2014.
- Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Gospel?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.
- Howell, James C. *The Beauty of the Word*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011.
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- Koessler, John. *Folly, Grace & Power: The Mysterious Act of Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*, 2nd Edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster Knox Press, 2005.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Louisville, KY: Westminster Knox Press, 2000.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Abingdon Press, 1989.
- MacArthur, John Jr. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.
- McDill, Wayne. *The 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.
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Miller, Calvin *Marketplace Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.

_____ *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Norrington, David C. *To Preach or Not to Preach: The Church's Urgent Question*. Carlisle, Cumbria: Poternaster Press, 1996.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets and Journalists*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013.

Quicke, M. *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing. 2003.

Resner, Andre, Jr. *Preacher & Cross: Person & Message in Theology & Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

Robinson, Haddon *Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

_____ *Biblical Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.

Sangster, W. E. *The Craft of the Sermon*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1966.

Smith, Robert. *Doctrine That Dances: Bringing doctrinal preaching and teaching to life*. Nashville: B & H Academic. 2008.

Spurgeon, Charles H. *Lectures to My Students*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.

Stewart, James S. *Heralds of God: A Practical Book on Preaching*. Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2001.

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Cowley Publications, 1993.

Thorn, Joe. *Note to Self: The Discipline of Preaching to Yourself*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

Torrance, Thomas F. *Preaching Christ Today: The Gospel and Scientific Thinking*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Preaching & Teaching with Imagination*. Victor Books, 1994.

Willimon, William. *Proclamation & Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Willimon, William H. *The Intrusive Word: Preaching to the Unbaptized*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

_____ *Peculiar Speech: Preaching to the Baptized*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.

Willimon, W.H. et al. *Preaching to Strangers: Evangelism in Today's World*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.

Wilson, Paul Scott *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Other

DUE DATE FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments must be submitted **on or before June 30, 2015**. Any submissions beyond this date will need to be negotiated with the Registrar.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

The preferred method of submission for assignments is electronically through the designated Moodle site. **It is important that all submissions be formatted as a Word document, NOT PDF. Please ensure that your name is clearly marked on each assignment and that you number your pages.**

SUBMITTING RECORDED SERMONS:

Please refer to the video produced by our IT department for instructions on how to submit your recorded sermons for assessment. Should you encounter any difficulties in the process we need to ask you to contact our IT department directly at helpdesk@ambrose.edu or (403) 410-2930. They will be more than glad to walk you through any issues you may encounter.

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Exam Scheduling

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.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

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 use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. 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. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in 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 Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office

in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

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 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 acknowledge 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 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.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.