



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

PR 645 Preaching Christ: Recovering Preaching as the Christ Event
Ambrose University College, Calgary, Alberta
February 22-26, 2011
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.

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 of the three required textbooks:** 20%

Students must send written confirmation to the instructor that they have read the entire three textbooks; or if not the entire textbooks, how many pages of each.

2. **Written Book Reviews:** 25%

Provide an executive summary of two of the required 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 6-Minute Sermon:** 15%

This includes class discussion, and a 6-minute 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 May 31, 2011.

For those who are graduating in April 2011, all assignments are due to the instructor no later than April 22, 2011.

Important Notes:

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.

Although extensions to coursework within the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last due date listed on the syllabus unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office two weeks prior to the course due date. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Registration and payment in full is open up to the morning of the first day of class.

Students may drop this class and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 1 pm on Tuesday, on the first day of class). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline.

Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 1pm on Friday, or the fourth day of class). Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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.

All registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or on the website.

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 Office of the Registrar in writing 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 to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

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 Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements 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.

DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to change all or part of this syllabus as he seeks to adjust to advances in the field, the particular dynamics of the class, or whatever is in the best interest of students.