



WP 550A Basic Preaching Fall 2016
Greenville SC
Michael A. Milton, Ph.D.
Saturdays on 9/10, 10/1, 10/8, 11/12,
12/3

Office Hours: Please call to schedule appointments.
Dr. Milton: 980-229-3314; mmilton@erskine.edu

[McCain Library](#) (toll free) 1-877-876-4348

Course Description:

This is an introductory course on the planning, construction and delivery of Biblical sermons. Emphasis is placed upon the step-by-step development of sermons which relate the ancient witness of the Biblical text to concrete and contemporary human situations and concerns. Opportunity is given for practical experience in the writing and delivery of sermons. *Students should satisfy the Bible competence requirement and complete BI 502 Principles of Exegesis before taking this course. Required for M.Div. students. Three hours*

Course Objectives:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. Among the goals of the Seminary are that graduates will be prepared to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today; that graduates will write and speak using theological language that is clear, well-considered, disciplined, and meaningful for those to whom they minister; and that graduates will be prepared to lead people in the worship of God and the celebration of the sacraments.

As a result of taking this course, students will learn the tools, structures, and concepts that most preachers use when putting a sermon together. In particular, students will

1. Gain a thorough understanding of the standard terms and structures that are foundational to preaching. (SLO1B)
2. Demonstrate their ability to work in small groups to prepare a full sermon (SLO2B) that follows the structural requirements of the course. (SLO1A)

3. Develop tools that can be applied to different kinds of sermons in different settings and cultures. (SLO1C)
4. Preach portions of their (select students) sermons to the class. (SLO2A)
5. Prepare an original sermon manuscript as a final group project. (SLO2D)

WP 550 Basic Preaching is an introduction to the basics of sermon construction and delivery. This is not primarily a course on the theology of preaching, but rather is a practical introduction to the tools, structures, and concepts that most preachers use when putting a sermon together. Because this course is introductory, our goal is to get familiar with standard terms and structures that are "foundational" rather than universal. There is not only one "right way" to preach. However, mastering the methods of this course will help you develop tools that can be applied to different kinds of sermons needed in different settings and cultures. Other methods and approaches will be taught and encouraged in future semesters.

Course Textbooks Required:

Braga, James. *How to Prepare Bible Messages; a Manual on Homiletics for Bible Students*. Portland, Or.: Multnomah Press, 1971.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.

Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1972.

Other online Resources to Consult

"Main Lectionary." Jean and Alexander Heard Library at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Accessed April 22, 2015. <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=224>.

"Other Preaching Resources." Text Week. Accessed July 08, 2016. http://www.textweek.com/other_preaching.htm.

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Course Requirements:

Features of Student Evaluation:*

1. Comprehensive exam over reading assignments and lecture material. (25% of Final Grade)
2. Preparation of an original sermon manuscript, using peer-review in small group. (25% of Final Grade). [Use the Erskine Research Paper template with cover page.]
3. Attendance and participation in class discussion and activities. (25% of Final Grade)
4. Completion of Readings (Students will turn in an electronic Word document stating the percentage of readings accomplished by the conclusion of the semester) (25% of Final Grade)

*All graded work must be the student's own, original work according to Seminary plagiarism and honesty policies (see Student Handbook and Catalogue).

Class Structure and Progression:

1. Class lectures will incorporate reading assignments in the order of the attached list. Students should plan to complete the readings for the lectures prior to the day of class.
2. After key components of sermon preparation and structure have been presented in morning lectures, students will break into research groups with an assigned text to prepare a seminar for the class.
3. Students will be required to work in small groups on assigned texts to prepare a full sermon that follows the structural requirements of the course. Each student will peer-review another sermon.
4. Each student will present a sermon brief by the conclusion of the semester, using the classical expository model.

Reading Assignments:

1. Each Day Bring to Class: Braga and Chapel

Course Dates: The course will meet on the following Saturdays in Greenville, SC, at Greenville ARP Church:

Table 1: Course Schedule

| Date | Professor | Lecture | Research |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 9/15 | Dr. Milton | Sermon Preparation | Group & Seminar |
| 10/1 | Dr. Milton | Sermon Planning | Group & Seminar |
| 10/8 | Dr. Milton | Sermon Delivery-1 | Group & Seminar |
| 11/12 | Dr. Milton | Sermon Delivery-2 | Group & Seminar |
| 12/3 | Dr. Milton | Sermon Delivery-3 | Group & Seminar |

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Writing Help for Students:

Students are encouraged to make use of the [Write Here Center](#) (Click Here) for improved writing skills.

Students may find the [Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Rubric](#) (Click Here). Scroll down to the Writing Assessment Rubric and download.

Bibliography

Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.¹

Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale*. 1977 Lyman Beecher Lectures. New York: Harper & Row, 1977.

Burghardt, Walter. *Preaching: The Art and the Craft*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987²

Buttrick, David G. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand

Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Claypool, John. *The Preaching Event*. Waco: Word Books, 1980.³

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989⁴

¹ This book has become somewhat of a classic. It is comprised of the text from the 1988 Lyman Beecher lecture at Yale. Brueggemann seeks to encourage the preacher to identify with the poetic angles of Scripture and be able to tell the Gospel story afresh to the people in the pew. The story should always come alive and be new. Theology and poetry must be wed in the pulpit. Poetry here is not just meter and rhyme, but, more broadly, the whole of language arts and “story telling.” Mainline Protestant (MP).

² RC.

³ The 1979 Lyman Beecher Lecture at Yale University Divinity School focuses on the restoring trust between preacher and pew through asking the what, why, and when of the text. The answer comes through vulnerability and woundedness in the preacher. This is a self-giving approach of the preacher.

⁴ We found this to be a very helpful book by Long, formerly of Princeton Theological Seminary, now at Columbia Seminary, who advocates reflection on the literary genre of the text. He provides helpful schemes for analyzing text and crafting the sermon. Mainline Protestant.

Cohen, Abraham. *Jewish homiletics*. ML Cailingold, 1937.

Friedenberg, Robert V. " *Hear O Israel*": *The History of American Jewish Preaching, 1654-1970*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1989.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn . *Preaching & Preachers* (Trafalgar Square, 2000, ISBN: 0340206624)

Loscalzo, Craig A. *Preaching Sermons that Connect: Effective Communication Through Identification*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Lowery, Eugene. The Homiletical Plot. Atlanta: John Knox, 1980.⁵

Massey, James Earl. *Designing the Sermon: Order and Movement In Preaching*. Abingdon Preacher's Library. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.⁶

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000)

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Gries, Zeev. "Between History and Literature—The Case of Jewish Preaching." (1995).

Logan, Samuel T., Jr. (ed.). *The Preacher and Preaching: Reviving the Art in the Twentieth Century*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Pub. Co., 1986.

Lose, David J. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Macleod, Donald. *The Problem of Preaching*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching with Freshness*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1997.

Nocent, Adrian. *The Liturgical Year*, 4 volumes. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1977.⁷

⁵ Excellent resource for thinking through sermon movement. Lowery advocates a five-fold approach that begins with "upsetting the equilibrium." Very good reflective material this.

⁶ Massey is very helpful in his books on "plot" and sermon design. This is another one.

⁷ A fine RC resource for preaching, but helpful for all Christian preachers moving through a lectionary or addressing themes in the Christian Year.

Noonan, Peggy. *Simply Speaking* (also entitled *On Speaking Well*). New York: Regan/Harper Collins, 1998/1999.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church. Vol. 1: The Biblical Period*. Grand Rapids: 1998.⁸

_____. *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church. Vol. 2: The Patristic Age*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* (Baker Books, 1990, ISBN: 0801071127)

Quicke, Michael. *360-Degree Leadership: Preaching to Transform Congregations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.

Saperstein, Marc. *Jewish preaching, 1200-1800: an anthology*. Marc Saperstein. Yale University Press, 1989.

_____. *Jewish preaching, 1200-1800: an anthology*. Marc Saperstein. Yale University Press, 1989.

Scheindlin, Raymond. *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel, and the Soul* (Oxford University Press, 1999).⁹

Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994, ISBN: 0802806279)¹⁰

Toal, M.F. (Ed.). *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4 volumes. Swedesboro, NJ: Preservation Press, 1996 (reprint).¹¹

Richard, Ramesh. *Preparing Expository Sermons*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995, 2001)

Other Resources Required

⁸ While this may be seen as a reference volume, Old is a master at the development of preaching in church history and should be read. Excellent for all branches of the Church. Presbyterian and Reformed (PR).

⁹ Dr. Raymond P. Scheindlin is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has served as rabbi at the Kane Street synagogue, Brooklyn, and as provost of the Seminary. Jewish seminaries often (not always) place homiletics within the larger framework of liturgics. Dr. Scheindlin teaches liturgy at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. For a full review of Jewish homiletics, see the article on "Homiletic" in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* at <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/7842-homiletics>.

¹⁰ This is a solid classic by one of the great pastor-scholars of the twentieth century. The Anglican, Dr. John Stott, made the case for speaking a Word from another world into this world through exegesis of both the text and the culture, prayer and people.

¹¹ RC.

See the professor's online page for resources (Steps to an Expository Sermon and Rubric for Expository Sermon): <http://michaelmilton.org/2016/09/02/resources-for-homiletics/>

Rutledge, Fleming. *The Bible and the New York Times*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.¹²

_____. *Help My Unbelief*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

_____. *The Undoing of Death*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Van Harn, Roger E. (ed.). *Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

_____. *The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Text*. 3 volumes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Von Balthasar, Hans Urs. *Light of the World*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1993.¹³

Willimon, William H. *Conversations with Barth on Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.

_____. *Undone By Easter: Keeping Preaching Fresh*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009.

Willimon, William H. and Richard Lischer (eds.). *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1995.

Willimon, William H. and Robert L. Wilson. *Preaching and Worship in the Small Church*. Creative Leadership Series. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.

Wilmore, Gayrand S. *African American Religious Studies: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1989.

JOURNALS

Cohen, Naomi W, and Marc Saperstein. "Elliot B. Gertel (editor): Jewish Belief and Practice in Nineteenth Century America. Seminal Essays by Outstanding Pulpit Rabbis of the Era Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2006 vi+ 210 pages (index)." *Rhetorical Review* 7 (2009): 6.

Saperstein, Marc. "Jewish Preaching on Leviticus." *European Judaism* (2008): 102-111.

Scheindlin, Raymond. "Communal Prayer and Liturgical Poetry." *Judaism in Practice*, edited by L. Fine, 2001

¹² Fleming Rutledge is one of the best of the female preachers in the Mainline Protestant tradition. This Episcopalian minister has produced several volumes of sermons based on the Church Year that will be welcomed by those appreciating good sermonic form and her own Thirty-nine Article confessional orthodoxy. Evangelical and Mainline Protestant (EV and MP).

¹³ Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-1988) was one of the great Roman Catholic (RC) theologians and was, also, a significant Catholic preacher and a contemporary with Karl Barth. It is heady, but helpful as one thinks about the glory of God and translates that glory in preaching.

Tauber, Abraham. "Jewish rhetoric." *Communication Quarterly* 17.4 (1969): 57-67.

ONLINE HOMILETIC RESOURCES

- The Academy of Homiletics. <http://www.homiletics.org/>
- Evangelical Homiletics Society. <http://www.ehomiletics.com/>
- Religion-online. <http://www.religion-online.org/>
- *Fides Quaerens Internetum*: The Christian Theology Page. <http://www.bu.edu/people/bpstone/theology/theology.html>
- The Living Pulpit. Sample articles from back issues; each issue has a theme such as "Hope," "Politics," or "Work." Table of contents for back issues are also listed. The journal is produced by non-profit organization, Living Pulpit, Inc. <http://www.pulpit.org/>
- Internet Guide to Preaching. Includes links to sites in the following categories: Revised Common Lectionary; Methods for Text Study; Stories, Illustrations, Quotations; Writing Helps, Dictionaries; Sermons, Homiletics, Public Context, and Worship Planning. <http://www.cyberword.com/preach/index.asp>
- The Text This Week: Revised Common Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links and Resources for Students, Teachers and Preachers. Revised Common Lections searchable by date or scripture, with links to versions, exegeses, sermons, and other relevant commentary; plus the occasional link to interesting and related sites. <http://www.textweek.com/>
- The Wabash Center Guide to Internet Resources for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. <http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/front.htm>. Wabash Center Internet Guide: Preaching. An ecumenical compilation of links, divided into the following categories: syllabi and teaching resources, electronic texts, electronic journals, websites, bibliographies, and listserv discussion groups. <http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/preach.htm>
- Preaching – A journal designed to help ministers strengthen their pulpit ministries and worship leadership. Web site includes announcements of upcoming issues and conference events, sample articles and sermons from past issues. A full electronic version of the magazine is available by subscription. <http://www.ministry.org/preaching/index.html>
- Homiletics Online – <http://homileticonline.com>
- Duke Divinity School Library, Guides to WWW resources in religion, Divinity guide to internet resources. <http://www.lib.duke.edu/divinity/>

- Vanderbilt Divinity School Library. <http://divinity.lib.vanderbilt.edu/homiletics.htm>
- Sermons from the Fathers of the Church. <http://ccel.wheaton.edu/fathers2/>
Regarding this site, another related site enables you to search these documents by keyword or subject: <http://www.earlychurch.com/study/search.html>