

**Fall Term, 2017**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Department: Biblical Studies

Course Title: Homiletics I

Course Number: PT550

Credit Hours: 3

The Rev. Dr. Rich Herbster  
724-544-5572 (cell)  
724-495-6362 (office)  
[rherbster@tsm.edu](mailto:rherbster@tsm.edu)

**Course Description**

This course pursues the development of both the theology and practice of preaching. Topics include the role and spiritual life of the preacher, the style, content, and mechanics of preaching, as well as many other aspects of homiletics. Students will prepare and deliver four sermons in class and receive feedback from the instructor and fellow students.

The general set of outcomes Trinity desires for each of our graduates includes the following:

1. The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
2. The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.
3. The student will be able to effectively communicate the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.
4. MDiv: The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities. MAR: The student will be equipped to apply scholarship to the life of the church in his or her chosen theological discipline. STM: The student will be equipped to successfully pursue further independent research and post-graduate study in his or her chosen theological discipline.

This course is one of the foundational courses preparing students to preparing the student to effectively communicate the Christian message (Outcome 3). The class will quite intentionally approach homiletics with a strong biblical theology emphasis (Outcome 1). All students will be encouraged to wrestle with developing an understanding of the place of homiletics within their broader theological tradition, whether Anglican or otherwise (Outcome 2). Preaching is a key ingredient for leadership, grows out of a life of applied scholarship, and relates closely to all other theological disciplines (Outcome 4).

**Course objectives:**

1. To develop a theology of preaching as the exposition of the Word of God.
2. To develop the skill of preaching through guided practice in a constructive and collegial setting.
3. To gain an understanding of the place of preaching as it relates to the rest of the life of minister: preaching as it relates to the biblical studies, theology, and applied theology.
4. To develop an increased awareness of the place of preaching in pastoral leadership generally: preaching and worship, preaching and discipleship, preaching and education.

### **Textbooks**

Required texts for this class:

- John Stott, *Between Two Worlds* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982)
- Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Second Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)
- Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching: Third Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014)

### **General Approach**

This course is made up of a two basic components. Some of our time will be spent in lecture (me teaching you about preaching). Some of our time will be spent in preaching and in listening to one another preach. The class will be highly interactive. All students are expected to actively contribute throughout the course, and to be open to receiving loving and constructive feedback from the instructor and from fellow classmates.

### **Course Requirements**

The requirements for this class (about which I will say more on the first day) are as follows:

1. Class attendance.
2. Preaching 4 times
3. A five page book report on Stott's *Between Two Worlds* will be due on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The paper should summarize the central thesis of Stott's argument and develop the relevance of this thesis for one's preaching ministry.

### **Course Evaluation**

- Class attendance is particularly important for a class such as this. It is rude in the extreme not to attend a preaching day when not scheduled to preach, thereby depriving your classmates of an audience. This will not be tolerated. All students are expected to attend all classes and to be prepared to participate actively in a constructive manner (obviously there are legitimate excuses and I will apply this

rigid standard reasonably). Because of this importance, regular class attendance and participation will count 20% of your course grade.

- Stott Paper: 20%
- Evaluation of Sermons: 60%

I will use letter grades or their equivalent to mean the following:

B (80-89): The thought and expression are clear and the information is accurate. The discussion is broad and deep enough to indicate a solid understanding of the issue. By “broad” I mean that sufficient aspects of the topic are covered, and by “depth” I mean that enough supporting and illustrating material is offered to flesh out the basic thought.

C (70-79): The material shows an adequate grasp of the topic, but at points the discussion is unclear, inaccurate, narrow or shallow.

D (60-69): The material shows something close to an adequate grasp of the topic but is notably defective according to one or more of the criteria.

F (below 60): The material does not indicate that the student has an adequate grasp of the topic, or it is severely defective according to the criteria.

A (90-100): The material is exceptional. Usually this means that it is not only clear and accurate but also develops the topic in breadth and depth beyond what is necessary for a good understanding of it. Such material is often, though not always, marked also by creativity, exceptional insight, and/or relatively extensive research.

The school’s grade scale is as follows: A = 100-95; A- = 94-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D = below 70; F = below 60.

Incompletes are not normally given and are given only in the most serious of cases. They are not granted as a way to extend the semester due to incomplete work. In order to request an incomplete, students must obtain the necessary form online and bring it to the professor who will list the specific assignments to be completed with due dates. The due date cannot extend beyond six weeks from the last day of class. The form will be submitted to the Academic Dean for final approval and will only be granted in the most serious of cases.

As per The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) requirements, several samples of student work may be randomly selected and used as a class artifact as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs. Students’ names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

## **Schedule**

Tues.	Sept 5	
Thurs.	Sept 7	
Tues.	Sept 12	
Thurs.	Sept 14	
Tues.	Sept 19	
Thurs.	Sept 21	Stott Paper Due
Tues.	Sept 26	Quiet Day
Thurs.	Sept 28	Class Preaching: Sermon #1
Tues.	Oct 3	Class Preaching: Sermon #1
Thurs.	Oct 5	
Tues.	Oct 10	
Thurs.	Oct 12	
Tues.	Oct 17	No Class – Reading Week
Thurs.	Oct 19	No Class – Reading Week
Tues.	Oct 24	
Thurs.	Oct 26	Class Preaching: Sermon #2
Tues.	Oct 31	Class Preaching: Sermon #2
Thurs.	Nov 2	
Tues.	Nov 7	
Thurs.	Nov 9	
Tues.	Nov 14	
Thurs.	Nov 16	Class Preaching: Sermon #3
Tues.	Nov 21	Class Preaching: Sermon #3
Thurs.	Nov 23	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues.	Nov 28	
Thurs.	Nov 30	
Tues.	Dec 5	
Thurs.	Dec 7	
Tues.	Dec 12	Class Preaching: Sermon #4
Thurs.	Dec 14	Class Preaching: Sermon #4