Fall Term, 2020

COURSE SYLLABUS
Department: Pastoral Theology
Course Title: Homiletics I
Course Number: PT550
Credit Hours: 3
Thursday, 1:30-4:15pm

The Rev. Dr. Rich Herbster
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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:
  **ISBN-13:** 978-0802875525
  **ISBN-13:** 978-0801099748
  **ISBN-13:** 978-0801049125

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 21st. 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.

COURSE AND SCHOOL POLICIES

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is a violation of an author’s/artist’s intellectual property rights and is a serious offense. Please see the Academic Catalog for a full explanation of Trinity’s plagiarism guidelines and note, as stated there, that every student is expected to be fully aware of the guidelines. A student who plagiarizes will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and risks failing the course. If a student does not know whether or not they may be engaging in plagiarism, they are encouraged to speak to Leslie Thyberg, our Learning Skills Coordinator.
Late Assignments:
Work turned in late (quizzes, exams, etc.) for any reason, barring documented medical emergency, will be accepted up to 3 days after it was due, with a grade level reduction (an A becomes a B, etc.). Any work turned in 3 days after the due date cannot be counted for credit.

Missed Class Policy:
Online learning doesn’t hold the same time constraints as traditional, residential learning (that is, you rarely have to be in the same virtual “place” at the same time as your professors or classmates). However, each course is designed with a progression of learning experiences that are meant to be done in order and in the same rough time span as your fellow students. So, while “missing” class in the traditional sense is a non-issue online, being absent from the course still is. Absence from an online course means missing scheduled deadlines (assessments, assignments, live sessions, discussions) as well as non-interaction with learning materials (lectures, readings, etc.). Just as in a regular classroom, students are expected to make up work that they miss; students are expected to let the professor know ahead of time when they are going to miss deadlines (when possible).

Being absent from a course for three weeks (consecutive or not) is grounds for administrative withdrawal, which will be noted on the student’s transcript.

Incompletes:
Incompletes are not normally given and are granted 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, the student must obtain the necessary form online, complete the relevant sections, and submit it to the professor who will list the specific assignments to be completed with due dates. The date for submission of all materials cannot be beyond six weeks from the last day of class (see the Academic Calendar). The form will be submitted to the Academic Dean for final approval. It is strongly recommended that students submit an Incomplete Appeal to their professor and the Academic Dean well before the deadline listed in the Academic Calendar. There is no guarantee that the professor, Academic Dean, or Registrar will be in the office on the day of the deadline.

ATS Review of Student Work:
Samples of student work may be used as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs by Trinity School for Ministry/North American Lutheran Seminary and the Association of Theological Schools. Students’ names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

Learning Materials:
All learning materials (handouts, study guides, etc.) are the property of the instructor. All materials produced in the Trinity Media Center (video and audio lectures) are the property of Trinity School for Ministry. Please contact the
appropriate owner for reproduction guidelines, as well as usage outside Trinity
School for Ministry.

Schedule

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