



WP 601(Main Campus) Worship and Preaching Fall 2011
P.O. Drawer 668, Due West, SC 29639

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Class meets Thursdays September 1 thru December 8, 2011, from 1pm – 4pm at Due West
PLEASE NOTE THAT AN ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OUR CLASS MEETS—SEE
NOTE ON PAGE 4 – I WILL HELP YOU WITH THIS IN CLASS. MEANWHILE, IT WILL BE TO
YOUR BENEFIT TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO YOUR SENSE OF CALL TO PREACH
BEFORE COMING TO OUR FIRST CLASS.

Course Description from the ETS Catalog:

This course provides an introduction to the major components of leadership in corporate worship, including how to prepare and deliver sermons, administration of the sacraments, leading in prayer, ordering of worship events, and issues of speech and diction. Special attention is given to developing a Biblical understanding of the nature of Christian worship. Each student prepares two full sermons and preaches them in class.

Required: Three hours.

Prerequisite: SB 05 Principles of Exegesis

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.

It is the teacher’s intention that by the end of the course term, students will:

1. Grow in their relationship with, and love for, the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Be familiar with the heritage and present state of their denomination or tradition’s liturgical practice.
3. Be familiar with the various components of public worship in a Reformed context.
4. Understand preaching as an act of worship.
5. Know something of the biblical basis for, and history of, preaching
6. Know at least one process for preparing sermons.
7. Be prepared to use published worship resources with sound judgment.
8. Skillfully prepare and present written material orally.

Required Textbooks:

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, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) 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.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

_____. *Christ Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.

Holmes, Robert Leslie. *When Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough: Pursuing Excellence in Christ's Service*. Greenville: Ambassador, 2006. (Do not purchase this book. It will be gifted to students by the author at our first class meeting.)

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship Reformed According to Scripture*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.

The "official" worship guidebook of your denomination, which is usually obtainable from your denomination's bookstore.

Certain articles about preaching that will be distributed by the professor in class sessions.

Course requirements and expectations:

All assigned readings and written work. Extra credit may be earned by reading and reporting on additional unassigned work that enhances the student's understanding of the class subject. In no case, however, can unassigned work become a substitute for assigned work. Late work will be penalized at the rate of one half grade point per day after the due date. Thus, if work is submitted one day late, A quality work will automatically be graded A-, A- quality work will be graded B, B quality work will become B-, etc. On the same scale, work that is submitted two days late that is of A quality will be graded B (half a grade point per day). B quality work that is two days late will be graded C, etc. It is hoped that this discipline will condition students to come to grips with the fact that, in the real preacher's world Sunday morning at 11 o'clock is coming, ready or not!

IMPORTANT: All Email submissions must be headed as follows on both the Email subject line and attachment using the following format: (Student's name) ERSKINE WP601 (Assignment title; e.g. First sermon review, Second sermon review, or Chappell review, etc). Using this format will mean that your work will not go to my spam folder.

Students are expected to read one published sermon or to listen to one recorded sermon each week and to write a brief report (one page maximum, double spaced), which will include the preacher's name, the sermon title, subject, length, and critical comments on the sermon. This report may be submitted online to lholfmes@erskine.edu.

By no later than September 29, students will submit a four page paper describing and responding reflectively to the essential content of each chapter of Chapell's, *Christ Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. This paper may be submitted online using the prescribed subject line for both Email and attachment to lholfmes@erskine.edu or delivered at the beginning of class on that date.

By no later than October 27, students will submit a four page paper describing and responding reflectively to the essential content of each chapter of Bryan Chapell's *Christ Centered Preaching*. This paper may be submitted online using the prescribed subject line for both Email and attachment to lholfmes@erskine.edu.

Each student will prepare and preach two sermons before the class. The time limits for these presentations will be announced by the professor at the first class and will depend on the number of students who sign up for the course. This time limit must be strictly observed. Sermons that do not fall within the assigned time limit will be penalized for being too short or too long.

On a provided sheet, each student will write a brief review of sermons presented in class. This will include both commendation and helpful suggestions for improvement for your fellow students. The purpose of this exercise is to help us to become good listeners and to grow together in our personal preaching skills.

The final examination will be "take-home" and will be due by 4pm on December 8. It will be made up of choices from several short answer and essay questions that will be designed to allow students to play to their own strengths.

The standard Erskine Seminary grading scale will be used:

100-95 A	94-93 A-	92-91 B+	90-88 B	87-86 B-	85-84 C+
83-80 C	79-78 C-	77-76 D+	75-72 D	71-70 D-	69-0 F

The weight of course requirements in calculating the final grade is as follows:

Paper on Chappell books 15% total

First sermon: 15%

Second sermon: 15%

Class participation 15%

Papers on weekly sermons read and heard (cumulative) 15%

Evaluation of student sermons (cumulative) 10%

Final Examination 15%

Total: 100%

The seminary requires that a "Denominational Definition of Worship," supported with biblical citations shall be included in each student's Professional Assessment Portfolio.

This is due no later than December 1. After I have evaluated it, I will return it to you with any recommended revisions. It will then become your responsibility to submit it having made whatever changes you deem necessary to the seminary office for inclusion in your Professional Assessment Portfolio.

This is not a “preaching competition.” It is a learning experience that is designed to help sharpen each student’s worship leadership and preaching skills. Without a positive learning environment this course, depending as it does on group interaction and mutual trust, will not work. Therefore every member of the class is required to attend class regularly and help create an environment in which each of us can become a stronger preacher and worship leader. As is appropriate for an institution that admits students from many traditions, we will focus on knowledge and skills and not on the issues that may divide us. Actions or statements that in any way undermine this environment may result in course failure.

Course schedule:

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| September 1 - Week 1 – | Orientation to the course
First sermons: “My Testimony: Who I Am and Where I’m Headed”
The Who, What, and How of Public Worship
The Biblical Roots of Christian Worship |
| September 8 - Week 2 - | Prayer in Preparation for Public Worship
Essential elements of Reformed public worship
Preaching as Worship (an introduction) |
| September 15 - Week 3 - | A Brief History of Preaching
Processes for Sermon Planning and Preparation
Using the Library and Other Resources
The Language of the Sermon |
| September 22 - Week 4 - | The Basics of Sermon Delivery
Watch These Words!
Types of Sermon |
| September 29 - Week 5 - | Preaching Christ from the Old Testament
New Testament Preaching
Preaching Like a Prophet |
| October 6 - Week 6 - | Chappell paper due (see syllabus)
Second Sermons Begin (continuing as necessary through November 19)
Ordering Worship for the Lord’s Day |
| October 13 - Week 7 - | Ordering Worship for Special Sundays
The Role of the Person Presiding in Public Worship |

October 20 - Week 8 -	Prayers in Public Worship
October 27 - Week 9 -	Planning a Preaching Year
November 3 - Week 10 -	Can I Preach the Bible With Confidence? Preaching on Difficult Texts
November 10 - Week 11 -	The Preacher as Evangelist The Reformed Invitation
November 17 - Week 12 -	Holy God! Holy Worship! Holy Preacher! The Preacher's Spiritual Life Welcome to the Fishbowl: The Preacher's Public Life
November 24 - Week 13 -	Thanksgiving Break – No class
December 1 - Week 14 -	The Preacher's Family Life The Preacher's Personal Priorities Course Review in Preparation for Final
December 8 – Week 15	TAKE HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DUE

Please review Seminary Policies:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

These are part of this syllabus contract between the student and Erskine Theological Seminary.