



ERSKINE | For Christ and His Church
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

P.O. Drawer 668, Due West, SC 29639

WP 701 Worship and Preaching II **Spring 2012**

Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Due West Campus

Professor: Robert Leslie Holmes

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Office Hours: Since I live away from the campus, I do not have office hours in the usual sense. However, I believe it is my duty to shepherd my students and this means, among other things, doing my best to be available to assist them to maximize their learning in my courses. Feel free to contact me if you believe I can help you. The best way to get in touch with me is either by email or by telephone. Except in an emergency I prefer email.

Seminary Policies: Click this link and read carefully as part of this syllabus contract:

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

Course Description: This course, normally taken the senior year, challenges the students to integrate the entirety of their seminary training into the various duties of corporate worship leadership. In addition to further exploring the topics introduced in WP 601 Worship and Preaching I, students again prepare and preach two full sermons to their classmates and also gain hands-on experience in how to administer the sacraments and perform weddings and funerals.

Prerequisite: Students must have completed 45 hours of course work, including WP 601 Worship and Preaching I, 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.

Course 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.

Required Reading: The required readings for this course come from the following books. All the required readings will be non-reserve in the McCain Library. Some may be available as Adobe .pdf files. Others will be given as class handouts by the professor. Readings are assigned more extensively from some books than from others. It would be expensive to buy all the books required, and taking the course does not require that you buy them, only that you read the assignments. Use your own judgment about what to buy and what to read without buying.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Holmes, Robert Leslie. *When Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough: Pursuing Excellence in Christ's Service*. Greenville: Ambassador International, 2005. (Do not purchase. Professor will gift a copy to any student who does not already have one.)

Strunk, William, and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 4th Ed. New York: Longman Press, 2000.

The Book of Common Worship. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993. Or equivalent: The "official" worship guide book most appropriate to your denomination, which is usually obtainable from your denomination's book store. For students who come from, or are preparing for ministry in, denominations that do not publish such resources may choose another suitable book of their choosing.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. Attendance and participation in each class session is expected and very important. Bear in mind that this is a four meeting course. To be absent from even one session is to miss 25% of the classwork and will be hard to make up and will adversely affect the final grade.
2. Each student will preach two sermons and give one meditation appropriate to a particular occasion, as assigned by the professor, in class. These presentations will be organized into three cycles so that everyone will have preached once before anyone preaches the second time and everyone will have preached twice before anyone presents a meditation. Class sermons will have to be in the range of eighteen to twenty-two minutes to allow time for class discussion. The meditations will be in the range of seven to ten minutes for the same reason.
3. One of the class sermons, after the preaching date and when revisions in light of class comments have been made, will need to be included in your Professional Assessment Portfolio. It is the student's responsibility alone to deliver by e-mail attachment a clean, unmarked copy to mstephens@erskine.edu for inclusion in your portfolio.
4. During the course of the semester, as occasion warrants, write and turn in three brief sermon reviews (approximately 500 words). These may deal with sermons from course readings or sermons you encounter in other ways, as long as you learn something from them that will help you in your own preaching. One of these may be a sermon that struck you as particularly poor. What, in your opinion, made these sermons good or bad? What did you learn from them that you will apply (or, in the case of a bad sermon, will not apply) in your own future preaching? Pay particular attention to the sermon's relationship to a Biblical text, and to its content and form: what is included, and in what order?

5. Where possible, we will make use of video to maximize learning from the experience of preaching in class.

6. On a form to be provided by the professor, each class member will submit at least one substantial notation with both praise and suggestions for improvement on both content and delivery of each class member's sermons.

7. We will use the standard Erskine Seminary grading scale. The weighting of course requirements in calculating the final grade is as follows:

Class participation/interaction 10%

Each sermon/meditation (w/supporting materials) 20% - total 80%

Final examination 10%

Total: 100%

This is not a "preaching competition." It is a learning experience that is designed to help sharpen each student's preaching skills and to help us each become more effective pastor/preachers (see Ephesians 4:11-12). 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 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 and regardless of race, sex, or denomination, we will focus on knowledge and skills and not on the issues that may divide us. The class will be supportive and constructive for every member at all times. Actions or statements that in any way undermine this environment may result in course failure.

Course Schedule:

Class session

- 1- Feb 2 – Introductions and Course Orientation
Why God Has a Wife
Worship Basics
- 2- Feb 9 - Comparison of Regulative Principle/Normative Principle Worship
Basic Components of Regulative Principle Worship
- 3 – Feb 16 - Sermon Genres – Their Strengths and Weaknesses
If "Preaching is truth through personality" What Genre Best Suits You?
- 4 – Feb 23 - The Lord's Supper
In preparation read Chapell, *Christ Centered Worship* pp 42-84;125-155
Holmes, *When Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough* pp 116-131
Also, bring the text of a communion service for your denomination
Each student will present the Lord's Supper (without actually partaking of elements of bread and cup) for his/her tradition.
- 5 – Mar 1 - Communion Meditation (time limit 8-12 minutes)
Each student will present a communion meditation appropriate to her/his church tradition and will provide the professor with a service outline including two hymns suitable for the occasion plus a sermon manuscript.
- 6 – Mar 8 - Funerals and Christian Worship
We will consider various theologies and practices of different Christian traditions, giving consideration to differing beliefs about heaven and hell, and death and resurrection.

- 7 – Mar 15 - Funerals and Christian Worship (continued)
Having considered philosophies and practices the previous week, now we consider the practical implications of dealing with funerals and memorial services in a Reformed setting. We will take into account how to conduct a Christian service in a church sanctuary/chapel, funeral home, and/or graveside setting. Time will be spent discussing ways to minister to grieving loved ones and guiding them pastorally in making key decisions including disposition of the body and related matters in a Christian context. Special emphasis will be given to ministering and planning services in the context of multi-pastor funerals and of particularly difficult funerals including the death of a stillborn child, a young person, death as the result of an accident or catastrophe, death of an unbeliever, or the death of a person unknown to the pastor.
- 8 – Mar 22 - Funeral Meditation/Sermons. (time limit 14-20 minutes)
Each student will present a funeral meditation/sermon appropriate to her/his own faith tradition and will provide the professor with a service outline including two hymns suitable for the occasion plus a meditation/sermon manuscript.
- 9 – Mar 29 - Funeral Meditation for a Well Known Personality Other than a Theologian (time limit 12-16 minutes)
Each student will present a funeral meditation/sermon appropriate to a well known person (Christian or non-Christian -- student's choice) and will provide the professor with a service outline including two hymns suitable for the occasion plus a meditation/sermon manuscript.
- Apr 5 - No class – Spring Break
- 10 – Apr 12 - Baptism and Christian Worship
We will discuss various theologies and modes of baptism within the context of Christian Worship as well as the baptismal practices of certain non-Christian groups, such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Time spent will be discussing the significance of baptism to the devotees of each belief system/method. If possible, students whose traditions and future ministry expectations practice baptism by immersion will be given an opportunity to meet off-site in a place where it is possible to demonstrate this method while students who practice ordinarily by effusion will meet to demonstrate this in the seminary chapel.
- 11 – Apr 19 - Marriage and Christian Worship
We will discuss various theologies and beliefs concerning marriage, both Christian and non-Christian and pay special heed to how to plan and prepare for Christian marriage, including pre-marital counseling issues and consultations with various persons involved in a wedding service, including the bride or groom, mother of the bride, wedding coordinators/consultants/directors, photographers, and others. Time will be given to consider how to lend a distinctly Christian emphasis to such occasions and how to present the gospel in the context of a wedding service.
- 12 – Apr 26 - Wedding Meditation/Sermons (time limit 6-10 minutes)
Each student will present a wedding meditation appropriate to her/his own tradition and will provide the professor with a service outline for the occasion plus a meditation/sermon manuscript.

- 13 – May 3 - Course review, loose ends, unanswered questions, and preparation for final examination. Presentation of take home final.
- 14 – May 10 Final examinations due by no later than 2pm to lholmes@Erskine.edu.