

Worship and Preaching I

WP 601A • Fall 2010

Final syllabus to be provided on September 2

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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meets Thursday, 6 - 9 p.m. except where specified otherwise.

Course Description

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. Students should satisfy the Bible competence requirement and complete BI 502 Principles of Exegesis before taking this course.

This course is a prerequisite for WP 701 Worship and Preaching II.

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

Required:

John R. Stott, *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*, Grand Rapids, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (January 1994)

Recommended but not required:

Peter Adam, *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching*, Regent College Publishing (May 1, 2004)

Walter L. Liefeld, *New Testament Exposition*, Zondervan (June 26, 1989)

Robertson McQuillkin, *Understanding and Applying the Bible Revised and Expanded*, Moody Publishers; Rev Exp edition (July 1, 2009)

Arturo Azurdia, *Spirit-Empowered Preaching*, Mentor (May 3, 1999)

Charles H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, Zondervan (December 15, 1979)

Chicago/Turabian Style Guide

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.

Features of Student Evaluation:

1. Presentation of two, original 25-minute sermons in class selected from a New Testament epistle (Note: Students should wear appropriate Sunday attire on the day of their sermon.)
 - a. Before presentation of each sermon, please submit:
 - 1) A typed, full-manuscript of the sermon with proposition and main points clearly marked according to the sample manuscript given to you. (You must preach even if this material is not ready.)
 - 2) A copy of the *pulpit* outline from which you will preach. (A full manuscript may be taken into the pulpit at this point, but must be done with care.)
 - 3) A VHS videotape cued for recording your sermon.
2. Small group video review of one sermon with Dr. Robertson
 - a. A sign-up sheet will be provided in class
 - b. Sign up on one of the available dates to review one of your sermons taped on video in class. You and up to three of your peers will meet with Dr. Eswine for personal interaction and discussion of your sermons.
 - c. Choose a three-minute portion of your sermon that you desire to have reviewed. (No random selections allowed). This should be a weaker portion of our sermon, keeping in mind areas that you would like to grow in as a preacher. Have video cued to this portion before meeting with Dr. Robertson.
3. Four written reflections on the Stott readings (single-spaced, 2 pages)
 - a. Identify the primary points Stott is making
 - b. Pursue at least one of these primary points for personal application to your own preaching, thought and practice.
 - c. Ask a question from other reading and consider how you might begin to answer this question, in light of Scripture.
4. Regular attendance, promptness, and participation (see Homiletics Covenant).
5. Improvement and evident effort

Special Emphases and Aids for this Semester:

Utilizing the “Checklist for Expository Sermons” to help you pre-evaluate whether your sermons meet class standards.

The role of the Bible, Prayer, and the Holy Spirit are the particular emphases regarding how you are thinking about preaching.

Dr. Robertson will be available to aid you in your sermon preparation by making an appointment through his assistant, Mrs. Eidson, 706.823.2454.

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 every other member can become a stronger preacher and worship leader, regardless of race, sex, or denomination. As is appropriate for a school that admits students from many traditions, we will focus on knowledge and skills and not on matters that are in the purview of ordaining bodies. Actions or statements that undermine this environment will result in course failure. The class will be supportive and constructive for every member.

Course Schedule

Thurs. 9/2	Attend Class to receive your orientation and class sermon schedule	Read Stott Ch. 1
Thurs. 9/9	_____	Read Stott Ch. 3
Thurs. 9/16	_____	First 2-page reflection due. Stott Ch. 1 & 3; Theme: History & Theology of Preaching
Thurs. 9/23	_____	Read Stott Ch. 2
Thurs. 9/30	_____	Read Stott Ch. 4
Thurs. 10/7	_____	Second 2-page reflection due. Stott Ch. 2 & 4; Theme: The Preacher Engaging Culture
Thurs. 10/14	_____	Read Stott Ch. 5
Thurs. 10/21	_____	Read Stott Ch. 6
Thurs. 10/28	_____	Third 2-page reflection due. Stott Ch. 5 & 6; Theme: The Preacher’s Study
Thurs. 11/4	_____	Read Stott Ch. 7

Thurs. 11/11	_____	Read Stott Ch. 8

Thurs. 11/18	_____	Final 2-page reflection due. Stott Ch. 7 & 8
	_____	Theme: The Preacher's Heart
Thurs. 11/25	No Class	
Thurs. 12/2	_____	

Thurs. 12/9	_____	

Seminary Policies

Drop/Add/ and Course Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may

communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards" (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and the integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in

the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

For details refer to the Erskine Seminary Handbook under the Honor Code.

NOTE: Under no circumstances will the professor accept a paper containing others' work, either downloaded from Internet sites or used from other students' papers. (In other words, the purpose of the assignment is for the student to reflect critically on the topic at hand and to articulate those reflections in writing.) If the student turns in such a paper to the professor, the grade is an automatic "F" or "0". As in scholarly writing, the student may quote from a reference work using proper citations. The student may also reference others' work in the student's own wording but must give proper credit by citing the original source. (See Turabian for instructions on footnotes, parenthetical references, citations, reference lists, and bibliographies.)

If the student is a published author and chooses to cite from his/her copyrighted material, proper citations must be made as well. Not to do so is considered plagiarism.