Austin Graduate School of Theology  
The Ministry of Preaching (MIN 6302) Syllabus  
(revised 8/24/2015)

Professor: Eddie L. Sharp, Jr., D.Min.

About the professor:  
Dr. Sharp is the preaching minister for the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin, Texas. He has served that church since August, 2008. He moved to Austin after preaching for 28 years for the University Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. He completed his D. Min., with an emphasis in preaching and church growth, at ACU in 1990. He was adjunct faculty with the College of Biblical Studies at ACU beginning in 1990. His teaching included survey courses in the Old and New Testaments and church leadership. He also was the director of the supervised practice of ministry for the Graduate School of Theology at ACU for five years.  
He is married to Annette. They have three grown children, a grandson and granddaughter.

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Objectives of the class

Students will learn to present the Christian message through preaching. They will also learn about the ministry of preaching in a congregational context.

Students will deal with the biblical text, current homiletic theory, shared experience and then integrate those studies into finished preaching.

Students will explore preaching from a variety of biblical texts and in a variety of situations in the life of the church. Students will learn how the preaching ministry responds to existing contexts and shapes future community in the Christian fellowship.

Students will present orally in readings, brief homilies and full-length sermons.

Students will also learn to minister appropriately in weddings and funerals.

All of these objectives will be evaluated in written and oral forms.
Textbooks and Resources:
Bible
The Witness of Preaching by Thomas Long (Second Edition)
Another book on preaching selected by the student and shared with the class.
Twelve sermons heard live or on iTunes or YouTube

Grading:
There will be a mid-term test and a final presentation of a sermon or class. The grades from these tests will make up 30% of the final grade.
There will be almost weekly opportunities to speak briefly. These together will be worth 15%.
There will be a major sermon project that will be worth 20%.
There will be a 45 week preaching plan that will be worth 10%.
The shared book summary will make up 10% of the final grade.
There will be outline/summaries of the sermons of others and self-critiques worth 15%.

Class Calendar

8/27
Introduction to the course
The New Testament theology of preaching
The preacher and the foolishness of preaching

Preaching as gospel event (Fire in Thy Mouth – Miller)
Preaching, homiletics and communication theory
Preaching as theological discourse

9/3
Preaching Old Testament Historical Texts — Read I Samuel
Listen to sermon and interact online: Nov 4 2012 Rev Dr Thomas Long Its About Time YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 1

9/10
Preaching Old Testament Prophetic and Devotional Texts — Read Hosea and Psalms of Ascent
Listen to sermon and interact online: July 10, 2011 Dr. Fred Craddock “Jesus Saves” YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 2
9/17
Listen to sermon and interact online: Rick Atchley Keynote Summer Celebration
July 3, 2015 YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 3

9/24
Preaching Matthew, Mark and John—Read Matthew 1-25, Mark 1-11
and John 1-10
Listen to sermon and interact online: 2014 Pepperdine Bible Lectures Patrick Mead YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 4

10/1
Preaching Paul’s Letters—Read Galatians, I Thessalonians and Colossians
Listen to sermon and interact online: Sunday Service - 2/28/10 Barbara Brown Taylor (Sermon begins at 30:09) YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 5

10/8
Mid-Term Exam
Listen to sermon and interact online: Encounter 2013 Tuesday Keynote - Jonathan Storment YouTube

10/15
Personal and Congregational Spiritual Formation
Listen to sermon and interact online: Sermon - Joshua Graves - 6/14/2015 - Christ Church Nashville YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 6

10/22
Sermon Planning
Listen to sermon and interact online: rrcoc.org choose Sermons Choose series One. True. God. 8/2/15 pt 1 A Different League Justin Gerhardt, preaching.

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 7

10/29
Preacher’s Personal Life
Listen to sermon and interact online: ACU Summit Jerry Taylor, “Know No Other God” YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 8

11/5
The Preaching Ministry and Congregational Planning
Listen to sermon and interact online: The Gospel in a Splash - Randy Harris
(Sermon begins at 34:00 or so) YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 9

11/12
Funerals
45 Week Sermon Plan due
Listen to sermon and interact online: OBC Edward M Fleming “God That Hates to Lose” pt. 1 YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Chapter 10

11/19
Weddings
Preaching book summaries due and shared in class
Listen to sermon and interact online: Charlie Johanson: James 2:1-7 YouTube

Long - Witness of Preaching, Overview and Summary

12/3
Preaching the project sermon

12/10 — Final Exam

Note to students: AGST has a very clear policy on plagiarism. That policy is fully in force in this class. Except when group work is clearly assigned, the assumption is that each member of the class will do his or her own work.

This syllabus may be amended as needed during the semester.