

Austin Graduate School of Theology
The Ministry of Preaching (MIN 6302) Syllabus
Spring 2010
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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This class will focus on the presentation of Christ through oral and written preaching. Students will deal with the biblical text, current homiletic theory and shared experience. Students will explore preaching from a variety of biblical texts and in a variety of situations in the life of the church. Students will present orally in readings, brief homilies and full-length sermons. Students will also learn to deal with weddings and funerals.

Textbooks:

Bible

The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching by Paul Scott Wilson
What's the Matter with Preaching Today? Edited by Mike Graves

Plus an additional book from the AGST library. Each student will select another book on preaching, read it and bring a summary presentation of it to the rest of the class.

Grading:

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The grades from these tests will make up 30% of the final grade.

There will be opportunities to speak briefly. These together will be worth 15%

There will be a major sermon project that will be worth 25 %

There will be a year's preaching plan that will be worth 10%

The shared book summary will make up 10% of the final grade.

There will be critiques of the sermons of others and self-critiques worth 10%

Class Calendar

- 1/21 Introduction to the course
The New Testament theology of preaching
The preacher and the foolishness of preaching
- 1/28 Preaching as gospel event (Fire in Thy Mouth – Miller)
Preaching, homiletics and communication theory
Preaching as theological discourse
- 2/4 Preaching Old Testament Historical Texts — Read I Samuel
- 2/11 Preaching Old Testament Prophetic and Devotional Texts — Read Hosea and
Psalms of Ascent
Discussion of Four Pages...
- 2/18 Preaching New Testament Luke/Acts —Read Luke 1-19; Acts 1-22
The Homiletical Plot
- 2/25 Preaching Matthew, Mark and John—Read Matthew 1-25, Mark 1-11
and John 1-10
Discussion of What's Wrong...
- 3/4 Preaching Paul's Letters—Read Galatians, I Thessalonians and Colossians
- 3/11 Mid-Term Exam
- 3/18 Spring Break
- 3/25 Preaching and digital media
Book Summaries
- 4/1 Sermon Planning and Congregational Spiritual Formation
Book Summaries
- 4/8 Preacher's Personal Life
Book Summaries
- 4/15 Project Sermons begin
- 4/22 Funerals
45 Week Sermon Plan due
- 4/29 Weddings

5/6 Gathering the Loose Ends

5/13 Final Exam

This syllabus may be amended as needed during the semester.