

Austin Graduate School of Theology
Spring, 2012
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Personal Visits by Appointment

Preaching 2 — From Text to Sermon (Min 6303)
Thursday 1-4 PM

MATS Educational Goal Supported by the Course

1. This course is envisioned as the capstone course for the MATS. The MATS curriculum seeks to give students the training necessary for the competent preparation of sermons and classes, beginning with the biblical text. In order to accomplish this students will bring their understanding of the original languages, history, theology and homiletics gained in other classes. The class will prompt the student to recover, review and remember the material from previous classes to bring all of the MATS work to bear on this work of moving from text to sermon in an appropriate and powerful way.
2. The student will write papers, interact in discussion, create classes, prepare and deliver sermons to demonstrate the synthesis of components of the MATS curriculum.

Course Objectives

1. The student will study the letter to the Hebrews, in order to use it as the source material for classes and sermons.
2. The student will follow the systematic method of preparation of classes and sermons offered in this class as a template from which his or her own personal style might develop.
3. The end product of the class is a series of sermons delivered to a gathered audience of fellow students, faculty and friends of the school.

Required Texts:

1. Fred Craddock, Preaching
2. Thomas Long, Hebrews: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
3. James Thompson, Hebrews
4. Haddon Robinson, The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching
5. Books and resources from all other courses taken as a part of the MATS should be available for the student's use in this class.

Course Requirements:

1. The student will read assigned materials and be able to interact with the class in discussion of the material.
2. The student will submit all written assignments in a timely manner. The student will prepare word studies, historical overviews, theological reflections and homiletic strategies as a part of the process of forming the sermons to be presented at the end of the semester.

3. The student will participate in all public readings, class presentations and sermons as required.
4. The student will attend class. More than one unexcused absence will be grounds for being dropped from the course.
5. Plagiarism is unacceptable. This course calls for a broad use of sources in a richly individual way. Each student is honor-bound to use resources in keeping with the guidelines found at http://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/guide_for_written_work.htm

Class Schedule

- January 19 Introduction to the course. The notion of a capstone course. Preaching as Gospel event. A summary of Preaching 1.
- January 26 Read Hebrews in the NIV and in the American Standard before class. Bring to class three different outlines for the book of Hebrews
- February 2 Select three texts that you might like to use as sermon texts for our class. Locate your texts in the Long and Thompson commentaries and read that material
In class we will select words for word studies in your selected texts.
- February 9 Submit to class copies of your four completed word studies. These word studies are to be no longer than 250 words each. You are to cite your sources for the word studies. Wikipedia is not a source for these studies. Be ready to share the gist of your word studies with the class. Email copies of your word studies to all class members and the professor.
- February 16 Read the Introductions to the Long and Thompson commentaries. What are the historical settings of your texts? What is the historical setting of Hebrews? What is the historical setting of the OT text being quoted in your material in Hebrews? Write 250 words about the setting of Hebrews and 250 words on each of the settings of your OT texts. Bring them to class with you. Be ready to talk about them.
- February 23 This class will focus on the nature of the literature in Hebrews. Hebrews is a letter and it is a sermon. What does its literary form have to say about its message? In the second half of this class, each student will read from Hebrews to the class.
- March 1 This class will highlight the theology of Hebrews. What are its dominant themes? How do the dominant themes of the book interact with the theology of the New Testament? How does it interact with the meta-narrative of the Bible?

- March 8 Submit a 500 word discussion of the theological themes at work in the texts you have chosen to preach. In this class we will discuss Craddock's book Preaching.
- March 15 Spring Break—You need it; the professors need it.
- March 22 This class will deal with homiletic structures and strategies. Make sure you have read Robinson's book by this class meeting. We will review material from *Preaching 1: Four Pages of the Sermon*, *Homiletical Plot*, *Overhearing the Gospel*, *Cause-Effect*, *Comparative Advantage*, etc. We will discuss options for the texts chosen by the class. We will discuss the audience for these sermons. Begin writing the part of your sermon that deals with explicating the text. Be ready to share this part of your sermon with the class at the next class meeting. Yes. Manuscript. At least 400 words. Not more than 600 words.
- March 29 We begin class sharing our nascent sermons.
- April 5 This class focuses on application and illustration. How will you make the text come alive? What should this text preached do in a person's thinking, feeling and acting? Bring to class an illustration you might use as part of an introduction to the sermon or as a way to highlight a point of application. What key points would you want to make in the closing minutes of the sermon? These key points should crystallize the core teaching of the text and move the listener to own the text in faith and act out of it in greater faith and discipleship.
- April 12 Bring to class your first complete manuscript of your sermon (1000 words). We will begin preaching these sermons, offering time for reflection and kind critique at the end of each one.
- April 19 We will continue with the sermons. At the end we will focus on the main strengths and weaknesses we have heard. All students will rewrite their sermons.
- April 26 Bring to class your rewritten manuscript. We will preach again and comment again. After this class, each student will make additional, appropriate changes to the sermon. This will be its final form.
- May 3 A review of our process. A reminder of the spiritual context out of which preaching is to come. We make ready for the final preaching event.
- May 10 The final sermon is the final for this course

This syllabus may be amended as conditions warrant for the appropriate accomplishment of the goals of the course. ES

