

EMP 1301HS HOMILETICS Emmanuel College 2016 Wed. 9-11

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Please seek consultation as needed in person, by email or by phone (day or evening).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation for preaching. Preaching the gospel is considered from historical, biblical, theological, pastoral, and creative perspectives. A methodology is taught that can be adapted to a variety of sermon/ homily forms.

In the first half of the course, an hour of theory is followed by an hour of practical implementation of that theory, and in the second half that pattern is reversed. For the second half, when students preach to the class, sermons are videotaped. **Students are required to purchase a 2gb sd card by reading week so that they can review their own sermons.** Various assignments and optional exercises are designed to augment student reading and class discussions. Small groups further enhance the learning experience. Students are examined in various ways, including written critiques of their peers, viewing their own recorded performances and evaluating themselves using course theory.

The University guidelines apply concerning plagiarism, see: The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, in Appendix A of the *Emmanuel Student Handbook 2009-2010* or Appendix III of the current *TST BD Handbook*.

Accommodations: Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the instructors and /or the Accessibility Office as soon as possible. It takes time to put disability related accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a Disability Counsellor at Accessibility Services, the quicker s/he can assist you to achieving your learning goals in this course.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

(a) in respect of general academic skills:

Perform scholarly analyses of biblical texts for the purposes of preaching using historical-critical, literary, and theological criticism. Draw upon a variety of sermon/ homily forms using a basic theological grammar.

(b) in respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines:

Employ trouble and grace as theological categories on vertical and horizontal axes, as a means to better communicate the Word. Use both narrative and propositional discourse as tools for contextual theology. Discern multiple ways of linking biblical texts and contemporary situations.

(c) in respect of personal and spiritual formation:

Students will find their spirituality deepened through greater awareness of the role and action of God in religious discourse. Draw on the theological traditions of the church to teach the faith effectively.

(d) in respect of ministerial and public leadership

Students will develop skills with preaching. Proclaim the gospel effectively. Offer positive, caring, and frank response to peers.

READINGS FOR EACH CLASS

Required Text:

Paul Scott Wilson, *The Four Pages of the Sermon*, Abingdon, 1999.

Recommended:

--for theological matters: Wilson, et. al., eds. *Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary: Preaching Year B*, Abingdon, 2013.

--for exegetical matters:

Stephen Farris. *Preaching That Matters*. Westminster John Knox, 1998. 39-124.

--for a Roman Catholic perspective:

Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The homily in the Sunday assembly. Catholic Church. National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishops' Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry, 1982

Robert P. Waznak. *Sunday After Sunday: Preaching the Homily as Story*. Paulist, 1983.

_____. *An Introduction to the Homily*. Liturgical Press, 1998.

--on use of stories in preaching: Scott Hoezee, *Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons that Matter*. Abingdon, 2014.

--for additional sermons/homilies/theory:

Ronald Allen, *Patterns of Preaching*. Chalice, 1998. (theory re: variety of forms)

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Home by Another Way*. Cowley, 1999 (or another collection of her sermons)

Paul Scott Wilson, *Broken Words: Reflections on the Craft of Preaching* Abingdon 2004 (sermons)

_____. *The Practice of Preaching*. Abingdon, 2007. (theory/ practice)

_____. *Setting Words on Fire: Putting God at the Center of the Sermon*. Abingdon 2008. (theory/ practice)

Other Required Reading/ Viewing:

- handouts from Wilson, *The Practice of Preaching*, rev. ed, (2007)

- Bible text/s for the upcoming Sunday plus a recent scholarly commentary on the text/s

- Daily newspapers and/or major TV or online network news (CBC, BBC, ABC, CNN, etc.)

Recommended Resources:

- a dictionary of the Bible; a Bible atlas; good commentaries (like *The New Interpreter's* series)

- online resources like <<www.textweek.com>>; <<www.workingpreacher.com>>;
<<<http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/thisWeek/index.php>>>

ASSIGNMENTS

All submissions are to be via Blackboard. All files are to be identified by your last name, plus the name of the exercise: eg. Smith sermon 1.docx

- (1) Small group attendance. These are adult learning groups and are places where you are to discuss the assignments, readings, class materials, problems you are having with any phase of sermon preparation, etc. The textbook provides numerous student assignments that are not required for submission yet that might be used in small groups.
- (2) Students will preach **two ten minute sermons/homilies**, one to their small group in the first half of term and one to the class in the second half. The **first one** will be revised after preaching it and submitted via Blackboard to the instructors no later than Monday of Reading Week. **Concerning the second one:** *It is especially important to time your second sermon/homily so as not to exceed your time limit (10 minutes).*
- (3) An exegetical assignment for Week II.
- (4) Various assignments for Weeks II to IV.
- (5) A take-home **quiz** on class discussions and the readings that you will receive at the class session before Reading Week and will be due at the first session after Reading Week.
- (6) **Evaluation of peer sermons** in weeks VII to XII. Each evaluation is to demonstrate the student's ability to be both pastoral and critical using course theory. One copy is to be given to the preacher the week following the sermon and one copy of all of them is to be assembled and submitted to the instructor at the term's end. You may use the *class evaluation form*, or make your own form using course theory.
- (7) Students are to write an evaluation of their own video-recorded sermon after viewing it through the class Blackboard site with a colleague from class. *All evaluations are due in examination week.*
- (8) A book review (300-400 words) on one of the recommended texts *or* on a contemporary homiletics book to be approved by one of the instructors (ask an Emmanuel librarian for the homiletics bibliography on file)—**due Week VII**. Choose a book on the basis of what you want to learn, e.g. various forms of sermons/ homilies, or theology in/ and/ or for preaching, etc. The book review is to include: a *summary* of the book's argument and structure; an *assessment of the theology of the Word* that it represents or implies; identification of several

strengths in the book, including why you see them as strengths; identification of *weaknesses* in the book from your perspective; and your own *recommendation* of the book (e.g. who should read it?).

MORE ABOUT YOUR TWO SERMONS/ HOMILIES The two ten minute sermons/homilies (#5 above) are to be based on **Year C (2016)** of the Revised Common Lectionary or the Roman Catholic Lectionary.

To determine the Bible text for sermon/ homily #1: *choose either the Old Testament or Epistle text* from any Sunday up to week VI. Use the same Bible text for all of your written assignments to reading week (i.e. your exegesis, one minute presentation, sermon/homily #1). Preach your completed first sermon/homily to your small group in Weeks V or VI, revise it, and submit it at the latest on the Monday of reading week. No matter what form you use, demonstrate use of trouble/grace as developed in the text.

To determine the Bible text for sermon/ homily #2 (preached to the entire class in the second half of term): find the lections for the Sunday that follows your signed date and this time choose *the Gospel lesson*. This sermon/ homily has no written submission requirements yet *it assumes evidence of careful biblical and theological exegesis*.

USING THE BLACKBOARD SITE FOR A NEAR-PAPERLESS CLASS!

- All electronic communication (class announcements/email) will be sent to the email address you have associated with the utoronto.ca system. You can see this address after signing in at www.rosi.utoronto.ca.
- Please submit your assignments/sermons/reviews via the Blackboard rather than direct email to the instructors. This ensures your privacy. Also, each assignment is more reliably time-stamped at the time of submission than email. Each due assignment will have its own heading in the Blackboard site for the class. You will be able to submit assignments *until midnight after the class session in which the assignment is due*.
- If the requirement for digital submissions poses a hardship to any student, requests to submit materials by hand will be considered on an individual basis.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week I.

Class: *Theology and Exegesis for preaching plus Concerns of the Text*

Before next week meet in your small groups: Introduce yourselves, exchange email addresses and begin to identify several concerns of the text (handout, pp. 60-63) for each other's chosen Bible text. Begin working on your exegesis assignment for next week.

Note: In subsequent weeks, the small group assignments assume that the reading for the next week is complete. If your group meets directly after class, in future weeks you will need to read ahead by one week.

Week II.

Assignments Due:

Read: Wilson, Chapter 1, 2.

Blackboard: an exegesis on your first sermon text plus the theme sentence (*see* handout pp. 18-25 and 52). Identify and use at least one scholarly commentary: the *Interpretation* series (WJKP) and *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Abingdon Press) are both good and are designed for preachers.

Class: Hour 1. Theory: *Theme Sentences, Page One & Trouble, Transposing*
Hour 2. Application

Small groups: Come prepared to discuss your assignment for next week. Transpose your concerns of the text (handout, 60-63) into concerns of the sermon (handout, 73-78) keeping trouble as trouble and grace as grace. Identify one pair as your major concerns (i.e. the theme sentences of pages Three and Four, grace). Identify another pair of concerns that relate to it, i.e. the sentences guiding pages One and Two, trouble.

Week III.

Assignments Due:

Read: chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Blackboard: A list of 20-30 concerns of the text transposed into concerns of the sermon (*see* the small groups assignment, above).

Class: Hour 1. Theory: *Page Two & Trouble, Vertical and Horizontal Trouble, Unity and Focus, Identifying a Short Sentence to Guide Each Page of a Sermon.*

Hour 2. Application

Small groups: Prepare your sermon introduction (handout, 136-139) and preach it (Chapter 8). Discuss the readings, assignments, and trouble and grace.

Week IV.

Assignments Due:

Read: chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Blackboard: exercise # 13, (handout, page 173) on vertical and horizontal trouble.

Class: Hour 1. Theory: *Page Three & Grace*

Hour 2. Application

Small groups: Come having composed Page One (and Two?) of your sermon. Discuss your sermon preparations or try out one Page of your sermon with your small group. Discuss vertical and horizontal trouble and grace (173).

Week V.

Assignments Due:

Read: chapters 11, 12, 13

Compose: Page Three and Four of your sermon.

Class: Hour 1: One of the instructors will preach.

Hour 2: Theory: Preaching the Gospel

Small Groups: Begin to preach your sermons.

----READING WEEK----

Week VI.

Assignment Due:

Hand in your first sermon/homily (except those who are preaching in Week VII) –
BY THE CLASS TIME AT THE LATEST.

Class: Hour 1: Class quiz on readings; plus discussion of Alternative Sermon or Homily Forms/ Models/ Shuffling the Four Pages

Hour 2: Problem shooting

Small Groups: Preach the remaining first sermons/ homilies.

Week VII.

Assignment Due:

Blackboard: YOUR BOOK REVIEW.

Class Sermons/ Homilies BEGIN (Students who are preaching on this day will preach their first sermon/ homily [OT or Epistle] rather than submitting it at Reading Week. Their second sermon/ homily [on a Gospel text] will then be written and submitted by end of term.)

Class: Hour 1. Application: chapel sermons/ homilies

Hour 2. Theory: classroom response

Small Groups: Small groups may continue if they wish for sermon/ homily #2.

Weeks VIII-XII.

Class Sermons/ Homilies: Students will preach their second sermon/ homily. No written submissions are required but it is assumed that careful exegesis will be evident. Grading is based on the oral presentation according to the class theory.

Assignments Review: Two sermons, weekly assignments, small group work, a 300-400 word book review due week VII, *plus a written evaluation for each class sermon/ homily per week (hand one copy to the preacher the week following and submit all your evaluations via the Blackboard at the end of term), plus a self-evaluation. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN BY MONDAY OF EXAMINATION WEEK.*

Return of papers: Students are to include a self-address stamped envelope with their final papers/sermons so that they can be mailed back.

GRADING is according to the course theory. Late assignments are not necessarily accepted or may be docked 15% for each missed deadline. *Missing assignments will mean an incomplete (INC) on one's transcript.*

Exegesis Assignments:	/ 100
Test & Book Review:	/ 50
Sermon/ Homily 1:	/ 100
Sermon/ Homily 2:	/ 100
Peer Evaluations:	/ 25
Growth, Attendance, etc.:	/ <u>25</u>

Total: / 400 divided by 4 = Final Grade