

**The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Louisville, Kentucky

**80314: Methods and Models of Expository Preaching**  
January Term, 2005

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## **Syllabus**

### **Seminar Description**

This seminar will feature the story of the art of expository preaching through the examination of major homiletical methods: the deductive or propositional truth method and the inductive or narrative and sermonic plot method. Each method will be investigated based on the movement and structure of the biblical text. Preachers modeling these homiletical methods in their sermons will be evaluated through video tapes and telephone dialogue conferences.

### **Seminar Objectives**

Upon the completion of this seminar you should:

1. Be able to articulate and assess the distinctive features of the methods and models of leading expository preachers;
2. Understand and be able to assess the New Homiletic;
3. Be able better to evaluate sermons on the basis of biblical, theological, and rhetorical criteria expressed in the methods and models studied;
4. Understand a postmodern worldview as it relates to preaching commitments and practices;
5. Be able to assess the influences of post-modern culture on expository preaching;
6. Be able to express your maturing personal convictions with regard to your own practices of expository preaching; and

7. Develop enhanced abilities as an expository preacher.

### **Seminar Purpose**

Other seminars in your Doctor of Ministry program emphasize basic principles and practices of expository preaching, applying them to both Old and New Testament Scriptures. In this seminar, we will attend more closely to rhetorical aspects of expository preaching, assessing biblically and theologically the characteristics of various models and methods. In addition, new proposals will be assessed in the light of the essential convictions governing expository preaching.

### **Seminar Requirements**

#### 1. Book Reviews

You will read the books in the following list, and submit a review of each. The reviews are due at the beginning of the first day of class. They are to be written according to the general guidelines provided in *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style*, and the particular requirements included in the “Guidelines for Writing a Book Review” at the end of this syllabus. Please organize your reviews by the categories noted in the guidelines, and read these books carefully, for they will provide the basis for in-class discussion.

Buttrick, David G. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Chapell, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Revised edition. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.

Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority*. Revised edition. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

Erickson, Millard J. and James L. Heflin. *Old Wine in New Wineskins: Doctrinal Preaching in a Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Expanded edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Willhite, Keith. *Preaching with Relevance without Dumbing Down*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2001.

Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson, eds. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

## 2. Journal Articles

In addition to the books to be read and reviewed, you will read several articles, as listed below. These articles will represent differing viewpoints pertaining to various aspects of expository preaching models. For each of these, you will write a brief summary and critical response. Each of these reviews should be a page in length, and will be submitted at the beginning of the first class session.

In some cases, articles are available online; for these, web access information is provided. The others may be found in the seminary library.

Allen, David L. "A Tale of Two Roads: The New Homiletic and Biblical Authority." *Preaching*, September/October 2002, 27-38.

Allen, Tom. "Younger Pastors Ask: Is Preaching Out of Touch?" Accessed 1 June 2004. Available from <http://www.pastors.com/article.asp?ArtID=6183>.

Diduit, Michael. "Boomers, Busters, and Preaching: An Interview with George Barna." *Preaching*, September/October 1994, 4-11.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Preaching to Postmoderns: An Interview with Brian McLaren." *Preaching*, May/June 2001, 4-17.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. "The Crisis in Expository Preaching Today." *Preaching*, September/October 1995, 4-12.

Lawson, Steven J. "Sola Scriptura: The Sufficiency of Scripture in Expository Preaching." *Preaching*, September/October 2002, 20-26.

McDaniel, Rick. "Understanding the Contemporary Preaching Model." *Preaching*, September/October 1992, 14-17.

Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. "'Faithfully Proclaim the Truth'—An Interview with John F. MacArthur." *Preaching*, November/December 1991, 2-10.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Ministry is Stranger Than it Used to Be: The Challenge of Postmodernism." Accessed 1 June 2004. Available from <http://www.sbts.edu/mohler/FidelitasRead.php?article=fidel048>

## 3. Individual Presentations

Many textbooks have been written on the subject of expository preaching. Following is a listing of several of the most widely used of these texts. In your M.Div. program or in previous D.Min. seminars, you probably read one or more of these works.

In September you will be assigned one of these books, for which you will prepare an in-class presentation. (You will receive your assignment via your seminary email address, so be sure to check your box regularly.) You are required to read the book assigned (or review it if you've read it previously) and prepare a handout for the class and professor. Your handout must include, as a minimum, the following:

- A. The author's definition of expository preaching
- B. Any assumptions the author makes (e.g., about preaching, the Bible, the ministry, etc.) that shape his model and methods (often these may be expressed in the preface and/or introduction to the book)
- C. Features of expository preaching that he considers to be absolutely essential
- D. An outline of his model and method, including all features he includes and reflecting any sequence that he follows; create a diagram of his model, if possible.
- E. Any distinctive features or emphases of his model or method that make it different from others
- F. A critical assessment of the model and method he presents, i.e., identify its strengths and weaknesses.

You will have 30 minutes for your presentation. You should plan to cover the materials in about 20 minutes, and lead a discussion of your findings for about 10 minutes.

Your assignment will be from the following list. Although it is not required, you may wish to review and familiarize yourself with as many of these works as possible.

Bryson, Harold T. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

MacArthur, John F and Masters Seminary Faculty. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Waco: Word Publishing, 1992.

McDill, Wayne. *The 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

Olford, Steven F. with David L. Olford. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.

Richard, Ramesh. *Preparing Expository Sermons: A Seven-Step Method for Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994.

Vines, Jerry and Jim Shaddix. *Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

York, Hershael W. and Bert Decker. *Preaching With BOLD Assurance: A Solid and Enduring Approach to Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.

#### 4. Personal Position and Practice Paper

As a summative experience for the seminar, you will write a personal position paper expressing your convictions about expository preaching, describing your present model and methods, and identifying areas in which your beliefs and practices are developing and perhaps changing or becoming established. This paper should reflect careful consideration of the course emphases, indicated in assigned readings, class discussions and presentations, videos viewed in class, and the like.

The paper is to be 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced, and written according to the guidelines given in *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style*. Upon completion, and not later than January 31, 2005, you are to submit it to:

SBTS, School of Theology  
Robert A. Vogel  
2825 Lexington Road  
Louisville, KY 40280

### **Seminar Grading**

All work is to be submitted by the deadlines indicated elsewhere in this syllabus. Late work, if accepted, will be penalized. Assignments will be factored in the final grade as follows:

Book reviews	25%
Article reviews	10%
In-class presentation	25%
In-class participation	10%
Personal position and practice paper	30%

#### **Guidelines for Writing a Book Review**

Robert A. Vogel, Ph.D.

## Professor of Christian Preaching

The purposes of a book review serve both student and professor. For you (the student), it sets focus on the overarching ideas and intentions of the book, summarizes the important points you discovered in it, crystallizes your critique of the work, and provides a ready source of precise information about the book for subsequent reference. For the professor, the review proves that you fulfilled the assignment to read the book, indicates how carefully you read and interacted with it, and provides a basis for interaction with you on your reading.

Your book reviews should incorporate the following elements (organized and written in such a way that these are clear and distinct):

1. A heading, including your name, box number, and a full bibliographic entry for the book

The bibliographic entry must include title, author, publisher, and place and date of publication. It should be formatted according to seminary standards for bibliographies in term papers.

2. A statement of the purpose for which the book was written

This will not be a long section of the paper, but it should answer such questions as: Why was this book written? What niche is it intended to fill? Why was it necessary? What is the burden of the author?

The preface, introduction, and/or first chapter of the book should be a primary source for this information.

3. A summary of the book's content

This section of the review should describe the contents of the book. Don't get bogged down in details, but rather focus on summary. The table of contents should be helpful to keep you focused on the big picture, and often an author will provide a summary at the conclusion of each chapter that will help you differentiate main thoughts from development.

4. Striking thoughts or ideas that impressed you

This section may be a list of bulleted soundbites, i.e., a list of quotations or paraphrased ideas that you found particularly interesting or helpful. They may be selected because they make the point creatively or forcefully, because they articulate key points that you don't want to lose, because they provoked you to think more deeply about something, etc.

5. Points of disagreement

Are there statements made or positions taken with which you disagree? If so, include them

here, perhaps with brief discussion of your reasons for differing.

6. Assessment of the value of the book

This is the point of formal critique. Whereas the prior sections may implicitly critique the book, here you will offer a more formal expression. You should answer such questions as: Was the author's purpose a worthy one? How well did the author accomplish the purpose he expressed? Does the book make a useful contribution to the discussion of preaching? Was the book helpful? Why or why not? What are the book's strengths? What are its weaknesses? How could it be improved? In view of its purpose what, if anything, is missing? How does it compare to other books that you've read or of which you are aware?

Your paper must be prepared in a standard font (such as Times New Roman), 12-point type face. It is to be double spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. Total length should be 5-7 pages. A length for each section is not specified, but items 4-6 above will most reflect the level of your thoughtful engagement with the reading, and should be developed to show your best thinking.