

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MN642: Expository Preaching

Fall 2023

Instructor: Timothy M. Slemmons

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Credits: 3 hours

Grading Options: Students may elect to receive either a letter grade or a pass/fail.

Course Description:

This course focuses on developing a clear understanding of expository preaching: what it is; what distinguishes it from other homiletical forms; what its role has been in the history of proclamation and in connection with periods of reformation, revitalization, and renewal; how to prepare and deliver expository sermons; and how to leverage the expository method in the development of preaching plans with the aim of spiritual growth, congregational nurture, evangelism, and missions.

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Define expository preaching: its features, its aims, its presuppositions;
- Adapt their exegesis, interpretation, and theological reflection to the preaching of expository sermons;
- Research the biblical scholarship surrounding a selected book of the Bible with a view to developing a working bibliography, and articulating a clear sense of its literary and historical context;
- Offer and receive homiletical critique from peers;
- Identify distinguished preachers/scholars (both historical and contemporary) who exemplify faithful and effective use of expository methods;
- Develop a strategic and programmatic preaching plan.

Course Requirements:

+One paper (10-12 pp. total; 40%), consisting of:

- exegesis (7-8 pp., double-spaced) of a single block of text that will serve as the basis for four (*lectio continua*) sermons; think of this block as consisting of four adjacent, consecutive, or related verses, paragraphs, pericopes, or chapters (20%);
- four outlines (10%) of the scripture selections (2 pp., single-spaced, or ½ p. per outline), according to their “sense units” or “natural” divisions in the text; [NOTE: these are not sermon outlines, but outlines of texts to be preached]
- bibliography (1-2 pp., single-spaced); this preaching bibliography should include at least two each of the following: technical commentaries, homiletical commentaries, and sermons or sermon collections that focus on the biblical literature (i.e., the book of the Bible) selected by the student to be the focus of the sermons to be preached in class; ideally, sources consulted should represent the ancient church, Reformation, and modern periods (10%)

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+Two sermons (15% each), preached on (two of these four) contiguous, consecutive, or related texts; each sermon should be 4 pp. plus a 1 p. sermon outline — 30%;

+Class participation (e.g., evidence of reading, viewing videos, peer feedback, etc.), including online interaction (as appropriate to the course section) – 20 %

+Final paper (20%) consisting of (6 pp.):

- a working definition and description of expository preaching as you best understand its essential characteristics, showing engagement with readings and sources assigned for this class (3 pp.);
- a statement regarding how you expect expository and/or *lectio continua* preaching may figure in your regular pulpit ministry (1 p.);
- two (1 p. each) sermon outlines (each in complete sentences) for the remaining two sermons

Bibliography:

Required Texts:

Joel R. Beeke, *Reformed Preaching: Proclaiming God Word from the Heart of the Preacher to the Heart of His People* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018)

Alistair Begg, *Preaching for God's Glory* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010) 978-1-4335-2253-6

Johannes Oecolampadius, *Sermons on the First Epistle of John (A Handbook for the Christian Life)*, transl. T. M. Slemmons. Independently published, 2017) (cloth by B&N Press: 978-1668519998 or paper by Kindle Direct: 978-1975892029)

Hughes Oliphant Old, *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church, Vol. 4: The Age of the Reformation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022) ISBN-13: 978-0802847751.

Fleming Rutledge, *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Sermons from Paul's Letter to the Romans* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007), ISBN-13: 978-0802827371

Timothy M. Slemmons, *The Freedom of Christ: Sermons on Galatians* (Charleston, SC: CreateSpace, 2015) ISBN-13: 978-1508593348

Recommended Texts:

Ronald J. Allen and Gilbert L. Bartholomew, *Preaching Verse-By-Verse* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1999) ISBN-13: 978-0664258047

Timothy M. Slemmons, *Groans of the Spirit: Homiletical Dialectics in an Age of Confusion* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2010) ISBN-13: 978-1606089040

_____. *Elaborations of the Psalms (1—50)* (Independently Published, 2020) ISBN: 979-8636911814