



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

PRH610 – Christian Preaching
Thursdays, 9:00 am-12:35 pm
Fall 2010

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

Professor: Brad Estep, Ph.D.

Office: (816) 942-9022

Office Hours: By appointment

A brief introduction of Dr. Estep may be found on the last page of this syllabus.

Email: bestep@kcfc.org

Cell: (816) 916-9609 Please do not call between 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

Catalog Description

This course is the introductory course in preaching. It is designed to help the preacher understand the meaning of Christian preaching along with developing and refining preaching practices.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The climactic act of worship in Protestant Christianity is the preaching of the sermon. The ability to faithfully and effectively preach Sunday after Sunday is the result of study, prayer, and years of self-critical practice. This course is designed to help young preachers begin the journey toward experienced and effective preaching. Imagination, creativity, the person/personality of the preacher, careful study of Scripture, and communication skills are all called upon in the preparation and delivery of sermons. Some preachers appear to have received gifts for preaching, but good preachers are made by disciplined study and imagination. This course sets the stage for students to become good preachers.

Course Outcomes

By the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

1. To observe and reflect upon a practice of preaching which arises from the creative interplay of the biblical text, the liturgical context, and the person of the preacher. (Assignments 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 will help achieve this outcome.)
2. To identify, analyze, and develop resources that effectively nourish and discipline the imaginative life of the preacher. (Assignments 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
3. To examine the current state and tendencies of one's preaching practice with the purpose of designing a plan for improvement. (Assignment 7 will help achieve this outcome.)
4. To provide an opportunity for dialogue about preaching between seminary students and a pastor involved in pulpit ministry to a growing congregation. (Assignment 1 will help achieve this outcome.)
5. To improve the ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning. (Assignments 4, 6, and 7 will help achieve this outcome.)
6. To enhance the ability to speak coherently and cogently in the modes of discourse appropriate for the various ministry contexts. (Assignment 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
7. To fashion and deliver two original sermons [each grounded in a single biblical pericope] in the class setting. (Assignment 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
8. To display the ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth when it comes to preaching. (Assignments 7 and 8 will help achieve this outcome.)

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

- CP 3 Ability to speak coherently and cogently in the modes of discourse appropriate for the various ministry contexts. (Assignment 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
- CP22 Ability to prepare, organize and deliver biblically sound sermons using appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways. (Assignment 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
- CP23 Ability to develop and utilize existing ministry forms such as evangelistic preaching, pastoral care preaching, doctrinal/teaching preaching and preaching Christian seasons/calendar by which individuals, families and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness. (Assignments 1, 4, 5, and 6 will help achieve this outcome.)
- CP24 Ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current homiletical models in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives. (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will help achieve this outcome.)

Required Texts & Course Materials

Callahan, Kennon. *Preaching Grace: Possibilities for Growing Your Preaching and Touching People's Lives*, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

See Supplemental Texts below.

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Because theological education assumes that significant learning takes place in integrative dialogue, regular class attendance is required. Class attendance and participation will be

evaluated in the final grade. Make-up assignments are at the discretion of the instructor. (This addresses Outcomes 1, 2, 4, CP23, and CP24.)

2. Each student is required to read the assigned textbook in full. Bring the highlighted textbook to class and be prepared for full participation in group exercises and discussion. (This addresses Outcomes 1, 2, and CP24.)
3. Each student shall fill out a “reading report” form verifying completion of reading 800 pages other than *Preaching Grace*. (This addresses Outcome CP24.)
4. Each student shall write 2 separate 3 page summary-reflection papers on another text chosen from the list of “supplemental texts” or on a textbook pre-approved by the professor. The report should one or two key ideas of the book and the contribution the ideas make to a better understanding of your own preaching ministry. (This addresses Outcomes 2, 5, CP23, and CP24.)
5. During the course, each student will be expected to listen to 15 hours of sermons outside of class [at least 5 hours in person] and spend an additional 10 hours reflecting on these sermons in relation to the key ideas in Callahan’s *Preaching Grace*. Each student shall submit a “listening/reflection report” form briefly describing the context, content, and significance of the sermons listened to. There may also be occasions in class when students are called upon to share orally the context and content of these sermons and the student’s reflections upon them. (This addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP23, and CP24.)
6. Each student will fashion and deliver two original sermons in the class setting. Both sermons must be typed [double-spaced] in manuscript form on 8.5 x 11 paper and be presented to the professor prior to delivery. Each manuscript should be 6-8 pages in length. The manuscripts should draw upon the students growing grasp of the exegetical task, translation of the biblical text’s function into the preaching moment, and attention to effective and understandable language. If the student desires to preach from an outline, a copy of the outline must also be submitted to the instructor along with the manuscript. The preaching of the class sermon, reading of the text, and any other liturgical elements shall be done in the space of **no more** than 20 minutes. The two sermons presented in class will be evaluated by colleagues and opportunity for class feedback will be given following each sermon. (This addresses Outcomes 1, 2, 5,6, 7, CP3, CP22, and CP23.)
7. In response to Callahan’s book, a 6 page typed [double-spaced] evaluation of the student’s current preaching status along with a plan for intentional development and improvement will be submitted. This assignment is due October 28th. (This addresses Outcomes 1, 3,5, and 8.)
8. A one-hour exam will be administered on October 28th with attention given to the lectures and discussion covered in the preceding weeks. (This addresses Outcome 8.)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	38
Reading	39
Writing	28
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	37
Exams & Quizzes	3
TOTAL	145

Method for Submitting Assignments

All written assignments are to be submitted in paper form to the instructor in class.

Form and Style Expectations

Citations in Reading Reports may use the page number of the citation in parentheses.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Credit or partial credit for late work or a missed exam will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs for this course beyond the cost of tuition and textbook.

Course Grading

1. Attendance/participation	10%
2. Reading of <i>Preaching Grace</i> and additional texts	10%
3. Reflection papers on the additional reading	10%
4. Listening and reflecting on others sermons	10%
5. Manuscripts of 2 sermons @ 10% each	20%
6. Oral delivery of 2 sermons @ 10% each	20%
7. Preaching self-analysis and improvement plan	10%
8. Exam [Oct.28 th]	10%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
Sept. 16	2	<i>Preaching Grace</i> is to be read by this week.
Oct. 28	7	Preaching self-analysis and improvement plan is due. Also, the exam will be given on this date.
Various dates		The date for each student's sermons and the due date for the sermon manuscripts will be established in the first few weeks of class.
Dec. 16	13	All other reports and assignments are due.

Bibliography

Supplemental texts:

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. *Preaching as Theology and Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1984.

_____. *Preaching from the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

Allen, Ronald J., editor. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

Anderson, Kenton C. *Preaching with Conviction: Connecting with Postmodern Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2001.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

Burghardt, Walter J. *Preaching: The Art and the Craft*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

Buttrick, David. *A Captive Voice: The Liberation of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

_____. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

_____. *The Mystery and the Passion: A Homiletic Reading of the Gospel Traditions*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Callahan, Kennon L. *Preaching Grace: Possibilities for Growing Your Preaching and Touching People's Lives*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1971.

_____. *Overhearing the Gospel: Preaching and Teaching the Faith to Persons Who Have Heard It All Before*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.

_____. *Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Eslinger, Richard L. *A New Hearing: Living Options in Homiletical Method*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.

Freeman, Harold. *Variety in Biblical Preaching: Innovative Techniques and Fresh Forms*. Waco: Word Books, 1987.

Lischer, Richard. *Theories of Preaching: Selected Readings in the Homiletical Tradition*. Durham: The Labyrinth Press, 1987.

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.

_____. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.

- Meyers, Robin. *With Ears to Hear: Preaching as Self-Persuasion*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 1993.
- O'Day, Gail R. and Thomas G. Long, editors. *Listening to the Word: Studies in Honor of Fred B. Craddock*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1980.
- Sweazey, George E. *Preaching the Good News*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1976.
- Troeger, Thomas H. *Imagining a Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Dynamics of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- _____. *Peculiar Speech: Preaching to the Baptized*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- _____. *The Intrusive Word: Preaching to the Unbaptized*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Willimon, William and Stanley Hauerwas. *Preaching to Strangers: Evangelism in Today's World*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992

Course instructor:

Brad Estep attended Southern Nazarene University and there completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Religion before earning a Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He was accepted into the graduate program at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and proceeded to complete a Master of Theology degree and a Ph.D. in Practical Theology. His course work was primarily in the area of preaching and worship and his dissertation was devoted to baptismal theology and practice in the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Estep has served churches in Virginia, Florida, and Missouri. At present, Estep is serving in his second year as senior pastor of First Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City, MO. Brad and his wife, Dawn [nee Pardue] have been married for 22 years and have two children.