

SYLLABUS - PRH623 BIBLICAL PREACHING: I & 2 SAMUEL

Instructor: David Busic - 405.789.2050

Nazarene Theological Seminary

Fall Module 2005

3 Credit Hours

Dates: August 30 - September 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to help the preacher understand the meaning of Christian preaching and to develop sermon organizational skills. The various components of a sermon will be defined, discussed and illustrated. Techniques of exegesis, exposition, and the application of a biblical text will also be examined, with particular emphases on imagination, creativity, and passion for preaching. The Scripture focus for the course will be 1 & 2 Samuel.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To observe and reflect upon a practice of preaching which arises from the creative interplay between biblical imagery, spiritual formation, and the liturgical setting of a sermon.
2. To identify, analyze, and develop resources that effectively nourish and discipline the imaginative life of the preacher.
3. To define and utilize an approach to sermon construction which maximizes the integrity of the scriptures and the creativity of the preacher.
4. To explore the nature of biblical narrative, identify the major themes of 1&2 Samuel, and to develop sermons that are true to the meaning of the biblical text and reflective of contemporary methods of preaching.
5. To provide an opportunity for dialogue about preaching between seminary students and a pastor involved in pulpit ministry to a growing and diverse metropolitan congregation.

COURSE TEXTS:

The Bible: If you are not proficient with the Hebrew text a modern translation such as the NRSV, NIV, or NLT should be used.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Power, Providence & Personality: Biblical Insight Into Life and Ministry*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.

Peterson, Eugene H. *First and Second Samuel*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1999.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Because theological education assumes that significant learning takes place in integrative dialogue, regular class attendance is required. Because of the block nature of the class, class attendance and participation will be evaluated in the final grade. Make-up assignments are at the discretion of the instructor.
2. Samuel Reading #1: Read Samuel in its entirety in one sitting from a modern translation. Write down reflections and insights *only after your reading is complete*. Submit a copy of your notes.
3. Samuel Reading #2: Read Samuel in its entirety in one sitting from a modern translation. Write down reflections and insights *as you read*. Submit a copy of your notes including new observations.
4. Each student will preach an original sermon from Samuel in class developed specifically for this course. On the scheduled preaching day in class the student shall submit to the instructor a copy of a complete manuscript of the sermon. The sermon must be typed in manuscript form on 8.5 x 11 paper. The first page is to be a title page, which shall include: the name of the course, the name of the preacher, the biblical text(s), the title, the text function sentence, and a brief descriptive paragraph of the congregation for which it has been prepared. The manuscripts should exhibit sound exegesis and proper re-functioning of the biblical text, creative thinking, and polished and efficient writing structure. If the student is preaching from an outline, a copy of the outline taken to the pulpit must also be submitted 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 longer** than 15 minutes.
5. Development of two seven week sermon series: one from 1 Samuel and one from 2 Samuel (14 total). These sermon starters should include the text, key exegetical insight(s) that provide the basis of the sermon, and a description of the big idea to be developed in the sermon.
6. Read all assigned course textbooks in full. Bring the highlighted textbooks to class and be prepared for full participation in group exercises and discussion.

Each student shall also fill out a “READING REPORT” form verifying completion of the readings based on the “honor system.”

COURSE EVALUATION:

- a) Class attendance and participation - 10%
- b) Required reading - 25%
- c) Written assignments - 25%
- d) Sermon - 40%

COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

WEEK 1:

August 30: Course Introduction, Preaching as an Art, Imagination and Preaching, Hermeneutics and Homiletics (Wilson Reading Due. Must be read prior to first class)

August 31: Listening to a Congregation, Listening to a Biblical Text, Preaching narrative/story texts (Samuel Reading #1 Due)

September 1: Sermon types and styles, Sensory preaching, Working with images, Cultivating A Story Garden

September 2: Introduction to Samuel, Theology of Samuel, Preaching from Samuel (Alter Reading Due)

WEEK 2:

September 5: Elements of Sermon Methodology and Preparation, Preaching from Samuel (Samuel Reading #2 Due, Peterson Reading Due)

September 6: Open

September 7: Student sermons preached and evaluated (Brueggemann Reading Due)

September 8: Student sermons preached and evaluated

September 9: Class wrap up and final discussions, Preparing an Annual

Preaching Calendar (Sermon Series Due)

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

David Busic completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Southern Nazarene University, before earning his Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He served five years as the Senior Pastor of Vineyard Community Church of the Nazarene in Livermore, California, and six years as the Senior Pastor of Central Church of the Nazarene in Lenexa, Kansas. He is currently serving as the Senior Pastor of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in Bethany, Oklahoma and is the co-editor of *Preacher's Magazine*. David and his wife Christi have been married for 22 years and have three children.

READING REPORT

I HAVE READ PP. _____ OF THE ASSIGNED TEXT

_____.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

