

**BC513: Advanced Preaching Skills  
Spring 2023**

**Professor:** Dr. Nathan Tarr  
**Contact Information:** ntarr@ps.edu  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course trains students by practice to preach expository sermons from a variety of biblical genres with greater clarity and relevance. Additionally, this course will expose students to preaching from a variety of cultural contexts for the purpose of helping them identify elements of their own preaching styles that are culturally specific.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, the student will:

1. Each student will *progress to the next level of excellence* as a student of the art and skill of communicating biblical content in a way that is exegetically accurate and edifying to God's people; appropriately blending the prophetic and the pastoral.
2. Each student will *develop in their ability* to preach the whole of Scripture as God's word, with a focus on preaching Christ from various genres of OT literature.
3. Each student will *attain a proper level of self-critical analysis* of his/her preaching that will stimulate (1) purposeful changes to poor communication practices, (2) increasing authenticity in one's communication style, and (3) improvement in presentation dynamics.
4. This course should *inspire you to strive for relevancy, concision, vividness and purpose* in your preaching. This will involve exegesis of our text, our culture, and our listeners.
5. In this course you will *enjoy the collegium of fellow students* as we mutually commit to learning the art and skill of preaching in an uncompetitive and supportive atmosphere.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS**

1. Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching as Reminding: Stirring Memory in an Age of Forgetfulness* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP), 2017.
2. Leif Enger, *Peace Like a River* (Washington, DC: Atlantic Monthly Press), 2001.
3. Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Biblical Sermons that Connect with our Culture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books), 2008.
4. Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books), 1999.
5. Piper, John. *Expository Exultation: Christian Preaching as Worship* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 2018.
6. Kuhn, Chase and Paul Grimmond eds. *Theology is for Preaching: Biblical Foundations, Method, & Practice* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press), 2021.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

1. Additional readings may be provided in-class.

## RECOMMENDED READING

1. Allen, Lewis. *The Preacher's Catechism* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 2018.
2. Beale, G.K. and D.A. Carson, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic), 2007.
3. Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Third Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic), 2018.
4. Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 2003.
5. Dever, Mark and Greg Gilbert. *Preach: Theology Meets Practice* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishers), 2012.
6. Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press), 1991.
7. Goldsworthy, Graeme, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans), 2000.
8. Helm, David. *Expositional Preaching: How We Speak God's Word Today* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 2014.
9. Jensen, Philip and Paul Grimmond, *The Archer and the Arrow: Preaching the Very Words of God* (Kingsford, NSW: Mathias Media), 2010.
10. Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan), 2011.
11. Plantinga, Cornelius. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans), 2013.
12. Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Second Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic), 2001.
13. Ryken, Philip Graham, Derek W.H. Thomas, and J. Ligon Duncan III. *Give Praise to God* (Phillipsburg, PA: P&R Publishing), 2003.
14. Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans), 1982.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<b>1. Reading (15%)</b> <i>Outcome(s) 1-4</i>	Students will complete all assigned reading in a timely manner. A reading log (attached to the end of this syllabus) must be printed out and filled in by the last day of class.
<b>2. Cultural Translation (15%)</b> <i>Outcome(s) 1-4</i>	CS Lewis argues that one of the primary tasks of the preacher is to “translate” biblical doctrine into the language of his congregation. Students will select a doctrine from the list provided by the professor and compose a paper of between 700-750 words explaining the meaning, significance, and application of that truth to their “young couples class.” Additional information will be provided in class.
<b>3. Devotional (25%)</b> <i>Outcome(s) 1-5</i>	Students will select from a list of Psalms provided by the professor. They will manuscript a 10-minute devotional to be delivered from this Psalm before the “mid-week prayer service.” Before beginning, the professor will inject a “scenario” that impacts your listeners. Students should incorporate their response to this situation into their devotional. The manuscript must be turned in on the day of delivery but does not need to be used for the presentation.
<b>4. Sermon (45%)</b> <i>Outcome(s) 1-5</i>	Students will prepare a full manuscript and deliver a 20-25 minute sermon on an OT text selected in consultation with the professor. The sermon preparation/manuscript should show evidence of interaction with

	Greidanus and Kuhn (as well as other recommended reading). The delivery should show evidence of engagement with Arthurs, Eswine, and Piper. The manuscript must be turned in on the day of delivery but does not need to be used for the presentation.
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### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

A course schedule will be provided on the first day of class.

### **GRADING INFORMATION**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>	<b>Description</b>
A+	100–97	4.0	
A	96–93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92–90	3.7	
B+	89–87	3.3	
B	86–83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82–80	2.7	
C+	79–77	2.3	
C	76–73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72–70	1.7	
D+	69–67	1.3	
D	66–63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62–60	0.7	
F	59–0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.

### **SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES**

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

#### **Attendance Policy**

One of the strengths of Phoenix Seminary is the classroom interaction between instructors and students. This interaction is all the more important when sharpening preaching skills. Attendance and participation are essential components of the training process. In addition, your feedback is a significant way in which your fellow students will be served by our time together this semester. An absence is defined as when a student does not attend a class period whether it be for an on campus

or an online course. When a student is going to be absent, it is important that the student consult with the instructor in advance about work to be missed. More than two (2) absences over the semester may result in a grade reduction.

### **Writing Center**

The Phoenix Seminary Writing Center exists to help students become better writers who communicate biblical truth with clarity. The Writing Center provides one-on-one consultations with students at any stage in the writing process. In addition to giving feedback on papers, tutors can also help students define a research topic, navigate sources, or learn SBL citation style. Appointments are available in-person or online and can be booked by visiting <https://ps.edu/writing-center/>. If you would like a consultant to review a paper, please send a copy of your draft at least 24 hours in advance to [writingcenter@ps.edu](mailto:writingcenter@ps.edu) with your name and appointment time in the subject line.

### **Assignment Policies**

- I am always happy to speak with students in order to recommend resources or help refine ideas! Please email me or drop in if my door is open. I'd love to hear how you are thinking or what you are wrestling with as the course proceeds.
- Papers should be 12pt, TNR or Garamond, and double-spaced, in keeping with seminary policy.
- Given the nature of the assignments, especially the presentations (which are budgeted class time), late assignments are not accepted.
- We will encounter a range of viewpoints in our reading and amongst ourselves. Confusion or disagreement is an expect part of the way we learn and grow. In our disagreements, I ask that we commit to (1) begin with clarifying questions instead of assumptions (2) be sure we understand/represent the other side well as we respond (3) model Christian charity in our speech and our manner of discussion.

### **Courteous Use of Technology in the Classroom (phone, tablet, laptop)**

Phoenix Seminary considers a student's character to be evidenced in part by their respect for their classmates, professors, and their valuable time in class. Please consider *how not to be rude* in the use of your technology by bearing in mind the following:

- Laptops and tablets are welcome in class to take notes and to access readings we're discussing. Using them for anything else (social networking, accessing non-course related websites, checking email) is discourteous and distracting to others.
- Phones must be silenced in class and stowed. That includes turning off the vibrate function. (We can hear it buzzing.) Is texting ok? No. If an emergency situation exists out of which you feel you must use your phone you should quietly step out of class to do so.

**BC513 READING REPORT**

(Due May 2, 2023)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the following:**

*Theology is for Preaching*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_ (of 297)

*Expository Exultation*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_ (of 309)

*Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_ (You may skip chapters 3 & 4)

*Preaching as Reminding*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_ (of 146)

*Preaching to a Post-Everything World*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_ (of 266)

*Peace Like a River*

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_