

**Note:**

**COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.**

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

PS-3330 Communication of Biblical Truth 3 Hours

### Course Description

An examination of the structure and preparation of expository messages. Major emphasis is placed on formulating a homiletical idea from a biblical text, and developing and supporting it with appropriate application to a given audience. Students prepare and deliver messages in class.

*Prerequisites:* GSU-1120 *Speech Communication* and BI-2280 *Hermeneutics/Bible Study Methods*.

### Course Goals

The student who successfully completes this course and its requirements will:

- Understand the rationale for expository preaching in one's ministry and in the life of the church.
- Understand the significance of spiritual formation while in the process of sermon preparation.
- Understand the methodology necessary for the consistent preparation of an expository sermon. This will include the analyzing, interpreting and applying the Scripture in order to formulate an accurate sermonic idea that is true to the text and applicable to the listener.
- Cultivate the skills for creative thinking and artistic expression by compiling illustrations that relate to life and faith for future sermons.
- Cultivate critical thinking by learning to constructively evaluate and critique sermons delivered by others. This includes the assessment of posture, use of voice, gestures, and organization of the sermon.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate skill and competency in the exegetical research of a didactic passage by using critical commentaries and study tools to accurately interpret the biblical text
2. Prepare an exegetical Big Idea, the exegetical outline, and address the three developmental questions found in the passage
3. Prepare a sermonic Big Idea, the sermonic outline, and articulate the purpose of the sermon
4. Write a full manuscript of the sermon for the "listening ear" and internalize the message for delivery
5. Demonstrate the ability to prepare and deliver an expository message from a didactic passage that is based on a single idea, is supported by a consistent and organized flow of thought, and is complemented by relevant illustrations and life changing applications

### Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

## Assignments

You will be graded on your completion of the following assignments. Refer to the **Schedule & Assignments** folder within the **Assignments** section of the Blackboard course for greater details on these assignments.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

#### A. Reading/Viewing

Reading should be completed according to the Course Schedule. **A reading report indicating the percentage of reading/viewing accomplished will be required each week.**

#### B. Audio/Video Labs

1. Review a sermon by Harry Shields on different aspects of sermonic structure and delivery, and discuss on Blackboard as a class.
2. Research an audio track on Week 1 to Week 7 from either Gordon-Conwell's [Preaching Points](#) or [PreachingToday.com](#) (paid service) on the topic of spiritual preparation and its importance in sermon presentation. Also, interact with the class on a weekly discussion board.
3. Interact with assigned Koessler CD "How to Preach a Sermon" video clips and complete an audio/video participation report each week.

#### C. Discussion Boards

You are expected to actively post on the Discussion Boards for this course. Discussion questions are posted in the Course Schedule for each week as they relate to audio/video presentations and readings. The Discussion Board helps the class to learn together as concepts take shape and can also affirm that students are on the right track rather than derailing.

#### D. Preaching Cohorts

You will be placed into cohort groups as a major component to the course. Each cohort is to be actively involved throughout the course in helping each other to develop their sermon.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

#### Assignment 1: Reflection Paper

Write a four (4) page reflection paper based on your reading from *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*.

#### Assignment 2: Exegetical Paper

Prepare the Exegetical Big Idea, Exegetical Outline, and Exegetical Research in the provided Exegetical Template.

#### Assignment 3: Sermonic Paper

Prepare the Sermonic Big Idea, Sermonic Outline, and Purpose Statement in the provided Sermonic Template.

#### Assignment 4: Applications and Illustrations Paper

Write at least one (1) concrete application for each of the main points in your sermon outline in the provided template. Sample applications and illustrations will be included in the template to help you complete this assignment.

**Assignment 5: First Sermon Presentation and Manuscript**

Preach a 20-25 minute expository message based on a passage assigned by the professor during the first week of class. Record and uploaded your first sermon to YouTube.com with the URL sent to your cohort for their review. You will be expected to refine your message based on the critique of your cohort peers within the group discussion in preparation for Assignment 6.

Also, write a complete manuscript of your sermon along with an organized outline following the flow of the message. The manuscript is to be written for the “listening ear.”

**Assignment 6: Final Sermon Presentation and Manuscript**

Rewrite your manuscript and record your final message delivered in a ministry setting. Upload your 20-25 minute video to YouTube.com to be evaluated by your cohort. Your professor will also review the message and review the evaluations of your cohort then send a final sermonic evaluation to you.

Also, rewrite the manuscript of the sermon (Assignment 5) along with the outline following the flow of the message.

**Assessments**

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Required Reading/Viewing/Labs	10%
Discussion Boards	10%
Sermon Evaluations (Preaching Cohorts)	5%
Assignment 1: Reflection Paper	5%
Assignment 2: Exegetical Paper	10%
Assignment 3: Sermonic Paper	10%
Assignment 4: Application & Illustration Paper	10%
Assignment 5: Sermon #1 w/manuscript	20%
Assignment 6: Sermon #2 w/ revised manuscript	20%
	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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## Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at [http://mmm.moody.edu/GenMoody/Media/MediaLibrary/database\\_tutorial.pdf](http://mmm.moody.edu/GenMoody/Media/MediaLibrary/database_tutorial.pdf).

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.preachingtoday.com> or [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com). These sites contain content on various preaching topics written by competent scholars and preachers. They also serve as a storehouse for sermon illustrations and sermon samples. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at [bible.org](http://bible.org).

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U, including various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Reformed Theological Seminary, Covenant Theological Seminary, Duke, and Yale have posted content related to biblical and theological studies. In addition, Gordon Conwell hosts the Harold Okenga School of Preaching.

## Course Bibliography and Links

### Preaching:

Baker, Eric. *Preaching Theology*. London: Epworth press, 1954.

Berkley, James D. *Leadership Handbook of Preaching and Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

Duduit, Michael. *Communicate with Power*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Farris, Stephen. *Preaching that Matters*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Gibson, Scott M. and Keith Willhite. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

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Jacks, G. Robert. *Just Say the Word*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1996.

Koller, Charles W. *How to Preach Without Notes*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1964.

Larsen, David L. *The Anatomy of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1989.

Mathews, Alice P. *Preaching the Speaks to Women*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching with Freshness*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1997.

McDill, Wayne V. *The Moment of Truth*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1999.

---. *The 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.

Merrill, Dean and Marshall Shelley. *Fresh Ideas for Preaching, Worship and Evangelism*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, 1984.

Montoya, Alex. *Preaching with Passion*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000.

Richard, Ramesh. *Scripture Sculpture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

---. *Biblical Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book, 1989.

Rowell, Ed. *Preaching with Spiritual Passion*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998.

Shaddix, Jim and Jerry Vines. *Power in the Pulpit*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

Turner, Timothy A. *Preaching to Programmed People*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1995.

### **Links to Preaching Websites**

[www.ehomiletics.com](http://www.ehomiletics.com) – Evangelical Homiletics Society site

[www.preaching.org](http://www.preaching.org) – Kenton Anderson's site. It features a blog, book reviews, articles, etc.

[www.preaching.com](http://www.preaching.com) – Preaching magazine site

[www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com) – Part of Christianity Today. It is subscription based and offers sermons, illustrations, and workshops on preaching

[www.gordonconwell.edu/lifelong\\_learners/preachingpoints/archives](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/lifelong_learners/preachingpoints/archives)

[www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com) – Homiletics magazine, subscription based

[www.homiletics.org](http://www.homiletics.org) – Academy of Homiletics site

[www.passionforpreaching.com](http://www.passionforpreaching.com) – A European community of biblical preachers

[www.postmodernpreaching.net](http://www.postmodernpreaching.net) – A series of articles on preaching in postmodern times

[www.9marks.com](http://www.9marks.com) – Offers articles, audio resources on preaching and ministry by Mark Dever

[biblicalpreaching.wordpress.com](http://biblicalpreaching.wordpress.com) – Blog of Peter Mead about biblical preaching

[blog.preachingtoday.com](http://blog.preachingtoday.com) – Blog from Preaching Today

### **Links to Reference Material**

[www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml) – Plagiarism: What it is and how to recognize and avoid it

[www.oneplace.com](http://www.oneplace.com) – Listen to current and past messages from many preachers and radio Bible teachers