

PS-4440 Structure and Style in Biblical Exposition – Course Syllabus

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

PS-4440 Structure and Style in Biblical Exposition (3 hours)

Course Description

A study of biblical preaching with an emphasis on advanced expositional techniques. Special attention is given to structure, style, imagination, and the use of creativity in message development and delivery.

Prerequisite: PS-4430 The Development and Delivery of Narrative Messages.

Note: PS-4440 may be taken concurrently with PS-4430.

Course Goals

In this course the learners will:

- Sharpen their personal style in message preparation and delivery
- Cultivate the use of imagination and creativity in biblical exposition
- Understand the importance of language in their message preparation
- Understand the way biblical genre informs the expository sermon
- Understand how to better structure messages to achieve sermonic objectives

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate improvement in their ability to preach engaging expository messages
2. Describe the importance of illustration and metaphor in preaching
3. Develop sermons based on multiple genres of scripture
4. Compose outlines according to the various sermonic forms

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required Texts:

Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2007. ISBN: 0825420199. [Arthurs]

McKenzie, Alice M. *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780664233228. [McKenzie]

Supplemental Texts (PDF files of each available in the resource folder in the week for which they are due to be read):

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic Moves and Structure*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1987. [Buttrick]

Cahill, Dennis M. *Shape of Preaching: The Theory and Practice in Sermon Design*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007. [Cahill]

Koessler, John. *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008. [Koessler]

Robinson, Haddon and Craig Brian Larson. *Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 9780310252482 [Robinson and Larson]

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Audio/Videos:

“Balaenoptera” performed by Joshua Bennett. Video produced by Cardy Films, 2012. [Bennett]
<http://youtu.be/Q9TWj3kb4cA> [03:53]

Audios from Preaching Points by Gordon-Conwell University [Preaching Points]
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/preaching-points-audio/id428971635>

Note: *The audio number given was as of December 2012. Numbers may change as additional audio are added so be sure to match the title and date with the audio file you listen to.*

- #18 (6/18/12), “Organize Naturally” [05:29]
- #27 (4/16/12), “Use Transitions to Remind Listeners Where You Are and Where You’ve Been” [05:20]
- #33 (3/5/12), “Emphasize What’s Important Through Volume and Gesture” [06:17]
- #75 (4/25/11), “Suspense Serves Sermons” [06:18]
- #120 (5/17/10), “Preach for the Ear” [06:06]
- #126 (4/5/10), “Make Your Outlines Work for You” [06:37]
- #131 (3/1/10), “Deduction Does it Well” [05:24]
- #199 (8/6/09), “Watch Your P’s” [06:14]

Robinson, Haddon. “A Good Lesson from a Bad Example.” [Robinson] Transcript at:
<http://www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/outlines/2005/august/056-outline.html>

Assignments

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION:

- a. **Discussion Boards:** You are to participate in weekly online discussions as assigned in the course schedule. You will be placed in a cohort group at the beginning of the course. For each Discussion Board question or topic, you will create an initial post by mid-week Friday, 11:59pm (CT) and will then comment on the posts of others and interact with their comments on your initial post by the end of the week, Monday, 11:59pm (CT). Course weeks run from Tuesday to Monday.
- b. **Reading:** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading prior to class participation in the discussion boards. In addition to the reading of the textbooks, you will be required to read supplemental chapters, listen to audios and/or view video presentations. You will be required to submit a reading report at the end of each week.

2. ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment 1: Sermon Evaluation

You are to listen to Haddon Robinson's "A Good Lesson from a Bad Example" and write a three (3) page, double-spaced evaluation examining the following areas:

- a. **Content:** What is the message about? Does the sermon stay true to the biblical text? Does the preacher state the Big Idea clearly?
- b. **Language:** How well does the preacher use descriptive language (give examples)? How does the preacher use illustrations and metaphors in the sermon?
- c. **Form:** How is the sermon structured? Is the sermon easy to follow?
- d. **Application:** How well does preacher apply the text? Is the application organic to the text?
- e. **Delivery:** How well does the preacher use vocal variety (pitch, volume, pauses, etc.)?

DUE: Week 3

Assignment 2: Sermon Revision and Delivery

You are to revise a message you have preached before, using the skills and insights that you have gained during the course. The sermon you select must have a written manuscript. After revising the sermon, you will deliver a 25-30 minute message. This assignment consists of the following parts (note the due dates for each part):

a. Sermon Revision

i. Part 1: Sermon Outline

You will submit your sermon outline with revisions marked in **red**. Also explain the sermon form and your "move" development and provide a short rationale for your decisions on the structure of the sermon.

DUE: Week 2

ii. **Part 2: Sermon Manuscript**

You will revise your sermon manuscript. Your revisions should be clearly marked. You should revise your sermon according to the principles learned in Weeks 3 and 4.

DUE: Week 4

b. **Sermon Delivery:**

iii. **Part 3: Sermon Delivery**

Your sermon will be delivered and video recorded (digital format is preferred). Your sermon can be recorded from a variety of locations including your home. If you are able, it is recommended that you deliver the message in a ministry context in front of an audience.

DUE: Week 5

iv. **Part 4: Sermon Evaluation**

You will write a one-page evaluation of your sermon. You should reflect on your delivery, clarity, and exposition of the biblical text. Sermon evaluation instructions will be available in the **Lesson 6 Resources** folder.

DUE: Week 6

Assignment 3: Sermon Preparation and Delivery

You are required to prepare and preach a second 25-30 minute message. The biblical text for this sermon must be from a different biblical genre than that of your first sermon. For example, if you preached a narrative text first, you can preach a poetic or didactic text second. For a list of biblical genres, see Arthurs. This assignment consists of the following parts (note the due dates for each part):

a. **Sermon Preparation**

v. **Part 1: Exegetical Work**

Complete a three to four (3-4) page exegetical analysis of your passage. The paper should comment on the following areas:

- The historical context of the passage (author, historical setting, intended audience)
- The literary context of the passage (where does it fit within the rest of the particular section or book?)
- Textual analysis (an analysis of the individual parts of the passage -- this analysis may look different depending on the genre selected. E.g., If you are studying psalms, you will analyze the parallelism and other poetic features of the passage. If you are studying a narrative, you will analyze the characters, plot and setting of the passage.)
- Exegetical Outline (provide an outline for the passage -- this is not the sermonic outline. Here you will provide the flow of the passage.)
- Exegetical Idea -- statement of the main point of the passage at the exegetical level, not the sermonic level.

You may also consult commentaries for this work, though it is recommended you consult the commentaries after examining the passage for yourself.

DUE: Week 6

- vi. **Part 2: Sermon Outline**
Submit your sermon outline. The outline should not be longer than 1 page and points should be written in complete sentences.

DUE: Week 7

- vii. **Part 3: Sermon Manuscript**
You will submit your sermon manuscript incorporating the skills gained and principles learned throughout the course.

DUE: Week 8

b. Sermon Delivery:

- viii. **Part 4: Sermon Delivery**
Your sermon will be delivered and video recorded (digital format is preferred). Your sermon can be recorded from a variety of locations including your home. If you are able, it is recommended that you deliver the message in a ministry context in front of an audience.

DUE: Week 8

- ix. **Part 5: Sermon Evaluation**
You will write a one (1) page evaluation of your sermon. You should reflect on your delivery, clarity, exposition of the biblical text, and your treatment of the biblical genre. Sermon evaluation instructions will be available in the **Lesson 8 Resources** folder.

DUE: Week 8

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation	25%
Assignment 1: Sermon Evaluation	10%
Assignment 2: Sermon Revision and Delivery	30%
Assignment 3: Sermon Preparation and Delivery	35%
	100%

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%

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Go through this Checklist to determine how best to obtain books and articles on your topic: <http://libguides.moody.edu/distancelearning/checklist>

- Bookmark the library's search start page for MBI-DL: <http://library.moody.edu/distance-learning/begin-your-search/>
- Bookmark this online guide for MBI-DL students: <http://libguides.moody.edu/distancelearning>
- Bookmark this tab that provides tutorials for online students: <http://libguides.moody.edu/distancelearning/tutorials>

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at <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. Download the iTunes University application for your device or computer to access.

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Course Bibliography

- Arthurs, Jeffrey. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2007.
- Broadus, John A. *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. New York: Harper Collins, 1979.
- Buttrick, David. *Homiletic Moves and Structure*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Cahill, Dennis M. *Shape of Preaching: The Theory and Practice in Sermon Design*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Davis, Henry Grady. *Design for Preaching*. St. Paul, MN: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1958.
- Jacks, Robert G. *Just Say the Word: Writing for the Ear*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1996.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Exegetical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1981.
- Koessler, John. *Folly Grace and Power: the mysterious act of preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

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Koessler, John, Ed. *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot*. Louisville, KY: Westminster Knox Press, 2001.

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002

Matthews, Alice P. *Preaching That Speaks to Women*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003

McKenzie, Alice M. *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

Robinson, Haddon and Craig Brian Larson, Eds. *Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994