

## HOM 500 - INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING

Instructor: Stephen Farris

Office: 604 822 9721

Home: 604 228 4252

email: [sfarris@vst.edu](mailto:sfarris@vst.edu)

Teaching Assistant Andy Kuo

### **The Goal of the Course**

The goal of this course is to expose students to basic interpretive and homiletical skills, to inculcate in them a reverent attitude toward the preaching task and to offer them the opportunity to practice oral communication skills. "Creative Preaching is the release of the active Word of God to do its judging and saving work." (Elizabeth Achtemeier, Creative Preaching p. 11). In this course we shall begin to learn how to effect that release.

### **Objectives**

By the end of the course students will have:

1. Learned a method of exegesis of self, situation and text
2. Been introduced to homiletical literature
3. Viewed and analyzed a number of notable sermons
4. Practiced the skills of oral communication
5. Composed, delivered and analyzed a sermon

The course will be divided into three parts:

1. Having something worth saying (to October 6)
2. Shaping what is said (to November 3)
3. Saying it well (to the end of the course)

The division into three sections is not hard and fast. Throughout the course we will be listening to or viewing tapes of notable preachers and noting features that relate to all three sections of the course. Moreover, there will be breathing and speaking exercises from the beginning of the course.

## Assignments

The central assignment of the course will be the preparation and delivery of a sermon before a small group of classmates and the video camera. The sermon will be prepared as an outgrowth of a study of an assigned text from the Gospel of Luke with a small group of classmates. The various exegeses listed below will also arise out of this work together, though each student is responsible for her/his own assignments. Some class time will be devoted to group work but the small groups will also need to meet outside class hours as well. The taped sermon will be reviewed individually with the instructor. The textbook for the course is *Preaching that Matters: The Bible and Our Lives* by the instructor. Please also consult *Grace: A Preaching Commentary*. An in-class oral book report to a small group of students will also be required. The report may be written on one of:

Craddock, Fred,	<i>Preaching</i>
Long, Thomas,	<i>The Witness of Preaching</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.
Taylor, Barbara Brown,	<i>The Preaching Life</i>
Wilson, Paul Scott,	<i>The Four Pages of the Sermon</i>
Suchocki, Marjorie,	<i>The Whispered Word</i>

Students with special interests may review a different book with permission of the instructor

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Exegesis of Self	Second week of class
Exegesis of Situation	September 29
Exegesis of Text	October 27
Preliminary Oral Presentation	November 3 (not graded)
Book Reports	November 17
Sermon	TBA

Note: A grade of Approved must be achieved in the sermon to achieve a passing grade in the course as a whole.

## Texts

Luke 1:46-55	A hymn of praise
Luke 4:16-30	In the synagogue at Nazareth
Luke 7:1-10	A certain centurion
Luke 9:10-17	Five loaves, two fish
Luke 10:38-42	What really matters
Luke 11:5-13	Asking and receiving
Luke 12:32-40	The coming kingdom
Luke 13:1-9	A call to repentance
Luke 13:10-17	A woman healed
Luke 16:1-9	The dishonest steward
Luke 18:18-30	A certain ruler asked Jesus...
Luke 19:1-10	A surprising conversion
Luke 19:11-27	And each was given....