

Course Outline: Fall 2018

Theology **Homiletics 5204a**
Location: **W104**
Day(s): Monday
Time: 9:30-12:20



Huron
T H E O L O G Y

Instructor(s): **Todd Townshend, Steve Greene** (teaching assistant)
Contact info: ttownshe@huron.uwo.ca, X289 or X610

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

- exhibit development in good preaching habits,
- articulate some basic principles for preaching,
- practice a particular method for homiletical exegesis, homiletical theology, and sermon preparation,
- preach sermons which:
 - proclaim and celebrate God's action in both the bible and world
 - proclaim God's grace in a balance with God's judgment
 - have a sound theological structure
 - use language which has sensory appeal
 - assist the work of the Holy Spirit

The overall goal of the course is to foster a love for preaching grace.

Course Description:

An introduction to the theology, art, and practice of preaching God's word in the Christian tradition. Students will read extensively in the discipline, preach regularly, and submit their sermons for critique and comment.

Course Materials:

1. Required:

The Four Pages of the Sermon: Revised and Updated, Paul Scott Wilson, Abingdon, 2018.

The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching, Augustine to the Present, Richard Lischer (Editor), Eerdmans, 2002.

Recommended:

Preaching the Luminous Word: Biblical Sermons and Homiletical Essays, Ellen F. Davis, Eerdmans, 2016.

The Practice of Preaching, Revised Edition, 2007, Paul Scott Wilson, Abingdon, 2007.

Preaching That Matters: The Bible and Our Lives, Stephen Farris, WJK, 1998.

Preaching as Poetry: Beauty, Goodness, and Truth in Every Sermon, Paul Scott Wilson, Abingdon, 2013

Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons That Matter, Scott Hoezee, Abingdon, 2014.

Preaching in Pictures: Using Images for Sermons That Connect, Peter Jonker, Abingdon, 2015.

Bibliography to follow:

Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

Participants taking this course for credit must meet six requirements:

- 1) **Participation. (10%)** Active attendance and class participation is very important. Here, we are Church for one another.
- 2) **Weekly Assignments & Test. (10%)** Almost every week there are readings and assignments to complete before the next class. There will also be a **test on Week 4 (Oct. 1)**. These are designed as theory-laden building blocks for sermon preparation. Each missed assignment deducts 2% from this requirement. Each wrong answer on the test deducts 1% from this requirement.
- 3) **2-Minute Sermon (20%)** During class week 7 (Oct 29), each student will preach **a sermon exactly two (2) minutes long**. This will be from the biblical text you will use weeks 1-6.
- 4) **Reading Assignment OR Preaching Event in Toronto Nov. 11-13th (20%)**

Assignment 4, Option (1)

Assess the introduction and at least two of the thematic “sections” of *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching, Augustine to the Present*, Richard Lischer (ed.), ISBN: 978-0-8028-4609-9, Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.

Report* your findings and reflect on what you’ve read in 1500 words. You should:

- Give a sense that you’ve engaged the reading at a meaningful level
- Express the elements you found helpful or interesting, and why
- Express the elements you found less helpful, and why
- List things you’d like to explore for your own preaching **DUE week 8 (Nov. 5th)**

Assignment 4, Option (2)

Read one of the following three books and follow the guidelines for the report* as found above. **DUE week 8 (Nov. 5th)**

Preaching as Poetry: Beauty, Goodness, and Truth in Every Sermon, Paul S. Wilson
Abingdon Press, 2014.

Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons That Matter, Scott Hoezee, Abingdon Press, 2014.

Preaching in Pictures: Using Images for Sermons That Connect, Peter Jonker, Abingdon Press, 2015.

Assignment 4, Option (3)

TORONTO FESTIVAL OF PREACHING – Sunday evening Nov. 11 to Tuesday Nov. 13
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., Toronto <http://www.lesterrandall.com>

Registration Fee \$175.00 for students – a pretty good deal

(includes Monday lunch, dinner, coffee breaks and a wine and cheese reception)
Please speak to instructor if you'd like to go and the cost is the only barrier

****Evaluation** for this assignment will be based on participation at the event,
and a 1500 word written report on your learning, and a meeting with instructor to evaluate.
DUE week 11 (Nov. 19th)

- 5) **Surprise 2-Minute sermon (10%) In class week 7 (Oct. 29)**
 Each student will choose a biblical text out of a “hat” (all texts chosen from the Season of Easter, Year C, RCL) and will have 30 minutes to prepare a 2-minute sermon using the “Four Pages” theory. Each student will preach that sermon in that class (Oct. 29).
- 6) **Final Sermon (30%)** After reading week you will choose a text from the Lectionary (Advent) for your final sermon. Preach this sermon in your placement, if you can. It must be a “Four Page” sermon, or one of the prescribed variations.

NOTE: The only acceptable explanation for missing one of your sermons, is the explanation you'd give to your congregation if you were to miss a Sunday.

<u>Course Outline</u>

1	Sept 10	Introduction:
---	----------------	----------------------

Prayer

What is Preaching? & the Four Pages

-a focus on both the “end” (telos) of preaching in general,
 and the end of each sermon, we ask, “what should have happened”?

- theological (theo-centric) focus for our homiletical exegesis,
 homiletical theology, and methodology.

- overview of the “Four Pages” method as a “grammar” for preaching

- syllabus.

Distribution of “the 35 Questions” (handout/doc.)
 (on OWL)

2	Sept 17	“to Listen”: homiletical exegesis
---	----------------	--

Prep. for this class by reading: *The Four Pages of the Sermon: Revised and Updated*
 pp. 1-78 (Introduction and Section 1: Monday)

Prayer

- discuss the reading

- deepen our understanding of the 35 questions for homiletical exegesis –
 an essential step in “listening” to the text.

- overview “the homiletical landscape” from the last fifty years.

3 Sept 24 “to Converse”: homiletical theology

Prep. for this class by:

a) reading: *The Four Pages of the Sermon: Revised and Updated* pp. 79-188
AND *The Company of Preachers*, to page 53.

b) Choose any biblical text for use in your “2-Minute Sermon”

c) Use this text to give initial answers “the 35 Questions” (handout/doc.)

Assignment DUE: - your initial guesses at the answers to the 35 Questions

Lecture/Discussion

-importance of analogy (and metaphor), breaking down the text, responses to the text, simple units of thought, “concerns”. “Labeling” concerns theologically, sorting them out to the Four Pages.

- “The Tiny Dog Now Is Mine” helps with editing and with creating sermon unity and focus.

4 Oct. 1 The deep structure

Prep. for this class by:

a) memorize the “theological questions”, #20-35 for test in class Oct. 1

b) (re)reading *The Four Pages of the Sermon: Revised and Updated* pp. 147-254
and *The Company of Preachers*,

“Performing the Scriptures” Nicholas Lash, 230 ff

“A Hermeneutic of Trust” Richard B. Hays, 265 ff

“The One Great Preacher” P.T. Forsyth, 411

Assignments DUE: your revised “35 questions”

*in-class test “remember” questions 20 – 35 (of “The 35 Questions”)

Lecture/Discussion

The deep structure

In this class we will recap. to make sure that we have mastered the basics of the theory.

Oct. 8 THANKSGIVING (no class)

Assignments DUE: by TUESDAY October 9

a) Hand in (by email) your “concerns” homiletical theology exercise

a) Hand in (by email) your “four pages” homiletical structure exercise

5 Oct 15 2-Minute Sermons with the Rev. Steve Greene

All members of the class will preach their 2-minute sermon AND submit script of sermon.
Class will give some feedback, and the TT will evaluate the written sermon script.

10 **Nov 19** **“to Edit”**: the final “scripting” of the sermon

Assignment DUE:
Hand in a detailed outline/structure (show each page separately) for your final sermon

Lecture/Discussion
First hour - editing, practicing delivery, editing again

11 **Nov. 26**
two sermons from RCL Advent 1 or 2

1)
2)

12 **Dec 3**
two sermons from RCL Advent 2, 3 or 4

1)
2)

Course Evaluation

1. Accommodation for absences:

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to your Faculty’s Dean’s office (or academic counselor), and not to the instructor. For the Faculty of Theology, all such documentation must be submitted to room A227. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

- a) **Medical absences:** See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness
—Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>)

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide document. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

For the UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see <http://studentservices.uwo.ca> > Medical Documentation, and for Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf Huron University College Academic Counselling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean’s Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

Additional Statements:

1. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

2. **Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:**
 All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

3. **Support Services:**
 - UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>
 - School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies: www.grad.uwo.ca
 - Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
 - Faculty of Theology Grad Assistant: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
 - Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
 - UWO Student Support and Development Services:
http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm
 - Mental Health website at Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. for example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.