

Second Year
Pre-class Assignment
PERKINS COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL -2014

(214) PRACTICE OF PREACHING

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Textbooks:

- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*, Second Edition (ISBN 0664229433)
- Lowry, Eugene, *How to Preach a Parable*
- McKenzie, Alyce and Holbert, John, *What Not To Say* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2011)
- Thomas, Frank, *They Like To Never Quit Praisin' God* (ISBN 0-8298- 1181- 8)

Located on SMU website at

<http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/COSS/English/Preclass.aspx>

Furnish, Victor, "Practical Guidelines for New Testament Exegesis

McKenzie, Alyce M. "Biblical Exegesis for Preaching"

Assignment #1 (Responding to Four Questions based on Your Reading of Long's book)

The Identity of the Preacher

1. Long discusses four images of the preacher in Chapter 1 of *The Witness of Preaching*. Where do you find yourself with regard to each? How does your current preaching ministry already reflect this model? Do you perhaps need to incorporate some aspect of it more fully into your preaching ministry? What are the most important strengths of each model and the most dangerous weakness in your opinion? (4 pages)

The Use of Illustrations

2. Long lists three basic types of illustrations in Chapter 8: the example, the analogy and the metaphor. Which type do you use most often in your preaching? Which type would you like to use more often? Suppose you only used one type and never any others? What would be the drawbacks? (2 pages)
3. Long also lists several sources of illustrations in Chapter 8: the preacher's own life, preacher's imagination, the surrounding world, and the media. Which of these sources is your favorite, judging from its frequency in your sermons? Which would you like to use more, and what do you think the benefits would be for your congregation? (2 pages)
4. What, in your opinion, makes for an effective use of personal example? An ineffective use? Give an example of each that you have heard or preached yourself. (Please keep negative examples anonymous). (2 pages)

1 of 4

Assignment #2: Exegetical Work and Sermon Manuscript for Sermon based on Lowry's book, *How to Preach a Parable*

Choose from one of these texts.

Mark 14:1-11

Mark 10:46-52

Mark 10:32-45

This assignment includes the submission of:

- Cover Sheet: Your Name, Sermon Title, Text, Sermon Form you've Chosen, Date, Course and Professor
- Exegetical Process Paper (see instructions below)
- Sermon Manuscript: Using one of the 4 Forms from *How to Preach a Parable*

Instructions

Exegete your passage using "Biblical Exegesis for Preaching" by Alyce M. McKenzie. Consult 4 sources in doing your exegetical work. No more than 1 can be an online resource. Use commentaries written after 1975. Give brief answers to the steps in the process. Be alert for the Spirit's working in your mind and heart and allow hunches and "sacred sparks" to develop as you move through the process. Include a bibliography at the end. (5-6 pages)

Sermon Manuscript: **Shape your sermon using one of the 4 forms Eugene Lowry describes in *How to Preach a Parable*.** Double spaced, corrected for typos and spelling and grammatical errors. (Length may vary, but aim for a 15 minute sermon, which would be about 4 ½ -5 pages.).

Assignment # 3: Exegetical Work and Sermon Based on Frank Thomas' book *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God* based on one of these texts

Choose from one of these texts.

James 1:19-26

Isaiah 55:6-13

Genesis 32:22-32

This assignment includes the submission of:

- Cover Sheet (your name, sermon text, sermon title, class and professor)
- 4 page Account of Your Sermon Preparation Process using Thomas' method (see instructions below for details)
- Preaching Worksheet (answers to questions Thomas asks on p. 75 for your sermon)
- Sermon Manuscript (Double spaced; edited for grammar and spelling; 5-6 pages in length)

Instructions:

Use Thomas’ method of sermon preparation (*They Like to Never Quit Praisin’ God* pp. 63-83) to prepare your sermon.

Submit a 4 page account of your work with the text based on Thomas’ 3 categories

- Prayer
- Free association
- Homiletical research (use at least 4 sources, only 1 online resource, commentaries written after 1975)

Prepare a sheet (like his Preaching Worksheet p. 75) that answers his questions with regard to your sermon on this text.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be sent to the Course of Study School office **postmarked on or before May 15, 2014** OR submitted electronically through the Locker system (see information below) **no later than May 15, 2014 at 11:59.59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted after May 15 will have grading penalties assessed as follows: (grades are expressed alphabetically from A to F, with F being the lowest grade)

- Submissions dated May 16 - May 31 will receive a one letter grade reduction
- Submissions dated June 1 - June 14 will receive a two letter grade reduction.
- Submissions dated June 16 or later, the student will be dropped from that course registration with no refund (of registration, fees or housing)

A request for an extension requires the following:

- It must be submitted in writing to the director of the Course of Study School. Via e-mail, send to Jeannie Trevino-Teddle at COSSExt@smu.edu. Via regular mail, send to COSS Extension, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. By fax, send to 214-768-1042). **Make sure that you notify the COSS office of any transmission.**
- It must be received by May 1
- It must state valid reason(s) for needing an extension
- It must state the course name(s) and number(s) for which the extension(s) is/are requested
- It must state the amount of time being requested (not beyond June 14)

In order for an extension request to be considered, the student must be fully registered (i.e., fees paid, signatures acquired, Release of Liability and Course Registration and Housing forms filled out and submitted). Before a decision can be made regarding an extension, the Director will consult with the student’s district superintendent, local pastor registrar and instructor.

Optional Electronic Submission for Pre Class Assignments

Course of Study School Lockers

We are offering an alternate method for the submission of pre-class assignments. The Course of Study School is using a “Locker System”, Locker.SMU. This system allows COSS students to submit their pre-class assignments electronically. Please remember that we will continue to accept mailed in paper pre-class assignments. Electronic submissions and the use of Locker.SMU is optional.

A Locker will be assigned to each student for each class they are taking. For example, if you are taking Hebrew Bible I (211) and Formation Discipleship (213) you will be assigned two different Lockers. The instructor for each course will then be able to log in to the Locker System and retrieve your submitted assignments for each particular class.

When your registration is received, the Course of Study School staff will be creating your private Locker(s) and informing you via e-mail when your Locker(s) has been successfully created. In this email, you will receive specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

If you have not registered by May 15th, you will not be guaranteed a locker and you will need to submit your pre-class assignments via postal service.

The Locker System will automatically date and time stamp your submitted assignments to inform the instructor and the Course of Study School staff when the assignment was submitted.
The pre-class assignments should be submitted to the Locker System **ONLY in .doc format.**

When you are ready to submit your pre-class assignments online, but have not received an e-mail with information on how to access your private Locker(s), please contact the Course of Study School staff at COSS@smu.edu with the subject line: Locker Access. The Course of Study School staff will then reply with specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be submitted to the Locker System **no later than May 15th at 11:59:59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted to the Locker System after May 15 will incur grading penalties as mentioned above on the grading guidelines. The same deadline restrictions apply whether you are submitting pre-class assignments electronically or via postal service.

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Students should keep a printed copy of each assignment and bring a copy of each assignment to class regardless of how the assignment was submitted.

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for each instructor.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet. A copy of the cover sheet can be found in the Course of Study School Catalogue and can be photocopied, it will also appear as a preloaded file when you access your locker.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study School catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.