

Homiletics

The Art of Preaching

VIMIN-1040-C

Course Credits: 1 Unit

Course Professor: Rich Nathan

About the Teacher:

Rich Nathan has been serving since 1987, as the first senior pastor of the Vineyard Columbus. Prior to pastoring, Rich taught business law at The Ohio State University for five years.

He is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and received his Juris Doctorate with honours from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1980. Rich has served on the National Board for Vineyard: A Community of Churches for nearly two decades and is currently serving as the Large Church Task Force leader for the Vineyard. He is a popular national and international conference speaker.

Rich wrote *Who is My Enemy? Welcoming People the Church Rejects* (Zondervan, 2002), co-authored the book, *Empowered Evangelicals* (Ampelon Revised 2009) with Ken Wilson, and co-authored the book, *Both-And: Living the Christ-Centered Life in an Either-Or World* (Intervarsity Press, 2013) with Insoo Kim.

Rich was born and raised in New York City. He and his wife, Marlene, have been married for over 35 years and have two adult children and six grandchildren.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the art behind an impactful sermon. Through the course materials you will be challenged and encouraged to prepare a message as well as understand the relevance of teaching others. Discussion will be centred on the creation and delivery techniques utilised when developing both an expository and topical approach to sermon writing in order to reach a contemporary audience.

Student activity hours

This 1 Unit, certificate level course requires 45 hours, broken down into the following sectors:

Task	Hours
Reading/Course Materials (300 pgs)	15-17
Lectures and Interaction	6-8
Special Assignment	9-10

Multiple-Choice Quizzes	8-10
Total	38-45

Course Contents

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding and appreciation for communicating God's Word of truth. There is an art to being able to preach and teach the theological and spiritual words of Scripture. This course will help you to answer the questions of why and how we go about preaching in a world that is plagued by sin and brokenness. This course will also provide you an opportunity to prepare your own brief sermon and present it to a group of fellow students.

Course Learning Outcomes

As a result of successful completion, you will be able to:

- Analyse the nature of biblical preaching
- Articulate the value and authority of Scripture
- Understand the importance of utilising and interpreting Scripture properly
- Understand why we need preaching
- Articulate the history and origin of Christian preachers in the church
- Answer objections to the value of preaching and teaching
- Understand the challenges of preaching to Post-moderns and the contemporary audience
- Understand the key tasks involved in preparing the message
- Understand expository preaching
- Elaborate on the connection between preaching and evangelism
- Develop sermons

You will find a more detailed learning objective section for each learning block below.

MINistry Courses

Homiletics is a Ministry (MIN-1040) course. The MINistry courses are designed to give you the theory and content in order to do the Praxis (PRX-0100 or PRX-0050). The material that you learn from this course should be applied not only to the Final Assignment in this course but also to the Praxis hours that you serve in your local church (as part of the PRX courses that you will register for separately) in the topic area of Homiletics. This information should also be used to answer question #6 in your PRX-0100 or PRX-0050 course Journal.

Hub Activities (check with your local site/hub to see if you will be participating in a local group community, otherwise you will be working independently through the course)

All students in a Hub/Site learn within communities of 2-7 students. A site coordinator/hub mentor will guide each learning community through the course. This person is not the teacher, but rather the *facilitator*. (However, if you are tackling this course on your own, please work through the discussion questions as

well, either reflectively by yourself, with your small group, or friends/family.) The following interactive components are likely to take place within the group meetings (hub mentors/coordinators might add to or subtract from this list to enhance their group's learning experience contextually):

1. Questions for group discussion after each lecture or couple of lectures.
2. The use of brief presentations by students, either presenting an aspect of a particular lecture, or their "take" on it.
3. Asking students to adopt opposing positions through debate to tease out certain aspects of the course content.
4. Questions that focus on application: essentially how will this lecture change your life or ministry? These can be combined with suggestions for ministry time or ministry activities.

Course Resources

1. Course *Syllabus/Descriptor*
2. Course text. In this case, the author will use:
Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1982
Print and Kindle formats. (351 pages)
This book also has a reprint titled: *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*.
3. Video, Audio and Power Point downloads of the lectures. Learning Block total video times:

LB 1	LB 2	LB 3	LB 4	LB 5	LB 6	LB 7	LB 8
41:52	33:53	38:52	47:28	43:39	48:37	46:30	46:36
4. The *Final* Assignment located in the Final Assignment Block area within the course. Please review all directions within this area as well as below.

Course Assessment

Your grade for this course will be comprised of:

1. 8 Learning Block quizzes consisting of approximately 5 multiple choice questions in matching/true false/short answer, objective style. Each quiz will be based upon the Learning Block requirements. This is worth 80% (each quiz is worth 10%) of your overall course grade. They are open book and you will have 2 attempts to take each quiz. You will not be able to answer the questions on the quizzes without a full understanding of each learning block's learning outcomes and reading requirements. With each lecture, the student will make use of the following:
 - The video lecture,
 - *Power Point slides*
2. One Final Assignment. This assignment will reflect knowledge and understanding from the lectures, and reading(s) from the course. More

information about this assignment can be located in the Final Assignment Block in the course. The assignment will be worth 20% of your course grade. You will complete the assignment and then take the Final Assignment Quiz

Course Quizzes

Each Learning Block has learning objectives/outcomes that specify what you must know for the quiz. The quizzes will be open book. Please take into account the amount of time you will require to complete each of the 8 LEARNING BLOCKS and the FINAL Assignment Block. You are allowed 2 attempts at each quiz within each LEARNING BLOCK. Please schedule your time wisely.

Final Assignment

For this assignment you should utilise the information that you have gained from the course lectures, power point slides and/or text to develop your own brief sermon that you will present to a group of people of your choosing. You obviously do not have the amount of time discussed in the lectures to provide a full sermon; therefore, you should consider this more of a homily due to the time. With that being considered, you should still utilise the steps in sermon preparation discussed in the course materials.

- Remember, that this is a brief/concise sermon. Pick a very narrow topic. Choose to talk about something you are passionate about and that you truly believe. Some ideas for topics include:
 - The danger of hypocrisy.
 - Courage in an antagonistic society.
 - Sincerity: is it natural?
 - How to combat pride?
- Remember to pray, pray, pray!
- Utilise an appropriate introduction. Grab the attention of your listeners. Can you use humour?
- For the body/majority of your sermon, think about the main points you wish to convey, be concise, and/or use an illustration if appropriate.
- The conclusion should not only drive home your main point, it should also call to action your listeners. How do you want them to apply this to their life? Think about the 'so what'.
- You are encouraged to write out your brief sermon in full as instructed in the course lectures, however either a fully written out/scripted sermon or a bulleted sheet of notes can be used. Remember you want about 400-500 words (which is about 5-6 minutes of talk).

--Thoughts for when you present to your small group or group of friends or at church:

- Speak clearly, slow down, fluctuate your voice, take your eyes off of your notes/script, and SLOW DOWN! Did I say, SLOW DOWN... 😊
- When you are done giving your sermon, ask the “so what”? Did your listeners get your point? Did they know what to do next because of your sermon?

--If you have the ability to record yourself as you give your sermon/homily, we highly recommend that you do so. One of the points in Lecture 4 is to think about your delivery. If you record your sermon and then watch it, you will better be able to see how you come across to others.

--After you give the homily/sermon you will go into the Final Assignment Block of the course and complete the brief quiz. The quiz will ask you multiple choice/short answer questions about your homily/sermon that you gave to a group of people. It is your responsibility to bring together a small group of people to listen to your sermon/homily.

General guidelines for the Interactive/Study Questions

The total time allocated to lectures and dialogue on the basis of the lectures is 8 hours. These lectures add up to 6 hours. That means you have 2 hours of dialogue time, or roughly 15 minutes per lecture. That means that you will not be able to discuss every question for all 8 lectures. You will need to use a *selection of all that is provided* below to work through the material. This is where the student group, the student leader, and the hub mentor/site coordinator have freedom to select what you deem to be most meaningful. You may want to cover some sections in less depth than others. If you are meeting together to watch the lectures in a group, then utilize the Interactive Component for each of the lectures listed below. If you are viewing the lectures individually then work through the questions independently.

Learning Block 1: Homiletics: Why Preaching?

Learning outcomes/objectives for Lecture 1

1. Describe the primary role of the pastor.
2. Analyse a major objection to preaching and why it doesn't work.
3. Evaluate the most basic problem we face as people.
4. Recognise how we combat our most basic problem.
5. Analyse the importance of 2 Timothy 4:2 and what it teaches us.
6. Analyse what we are to preach and what we aren't to preach.
7. Describe the logic of Romans 10:14-17 and the six steps of Preaching.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 1:

1. Analyse the consensus of the history of preaching.
2. Describe the four chief characteristics of John Chrysostom's preaching.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Read chapters: Introduction and ch. 1 (see textbook objective section below for each reading requirement)
- View/listen to Lecture 1 video or audio, follow along with power point 1

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 1

1. Why is preaching vital to the church?
2. Why must we understand the “needs of the hour” as we also understand the Word of God?
3. Discuss the pastor’s primary job description? What boundaries could/should be created in order for the pastor to focus on this important function?
4. Discuss some of the false conflicts faced in the church today?
5. Discuss the origin of preaching?

In your personal TIME with God:

1. How has sin impacted your life? Is there an area of your life that is in need of repentance or forgiveness?

Learning Block 2: The Challenge of Contemporary Preaching

Learning outcomes/objectives for Lecture 2

1. Recognise some of the challenges of contemporary preaching.
2. Explain the basic definition of Modernism.
3. Explain the basic definition of Post-Modernism.
4. Explain the basic definition of Evangelical Deism.
5. Describe the importance of right-brained preaching.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 2:

1. Explain the three main arguments against preaching.
2. Describe how to respond to the anti-authority spirit of today.
3. Describe how to respond to the cybernetics revolution.
4. Describe why preaching remains ‘sui generis’.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to lecture 2, follow along with ppt. 2
- Read ch. 2

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 2

1. Why is it important to know the world around you before you begin preaching? Moderns? Post-Moderns?
2. Why is it relevant to know the problems you might face before you face them?
3. How do you help a child of God to be “spiritually ALIVE”?
4. Discuss the issues surrounding the loss of confidence in the Gospel and how we must go about not only spreading the Word but preaching the Word.

In your personal TIME with God:

1. Reflect on James 3:1.

Learning Block 3: Preaching Christ to Post-moderns

Learning outcomes/objectives for Lecture 3

1. Analyse what people are looking for based on a lecture’s main points.
2. Recognise the approaches needed to preaching to a post-modern audience.
3. Describe the relationship between work and worship.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 3:

1. Explain the five theological arguments/convictions that are needed for conscientious biblical preaching and their components.
2. Explain the term expository. (This term will be discussed further in future learning blocks.)

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 3
- Read chapter 3 (see textbook objective section below)

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 3

1. Why must we admit to there being valid objections to the acts of Christians in history?
2. What does it mean to have truth and authenticity as a preacher?
3. What role does relativism play in our culture and church today?
4. What ‘new stories’ can we tell as preachers? (remember the discussion of biblical illiteracy)

Learning Block 4: Bridge Building

Learning outcomes for Lecture 4

1. Describe some of the pitfalls preachers fall into when preaching and how to deal with those challenges.
2. Explain what expository preaching is and is not.
3. Describe the values of expository preaching.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 4:

1. Recognise why preachers need to be bridge builders.
2. Explain the role of ethics in Christianity.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 4
- Read chapter 4 (see textbook objective section below)

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 4

1. Discuss the issues of non-discipleship and discipleship?
2. How do we build up the authority of Scripture?
3. What are some of the values of expository preaching?
4. Why is it important for the preacher to have controversial topics in their sermons?
5. How can the preacher encourage maturity in Christ?

Learning Block 5: The Preacher

Learning outcomes for Lecture 5

1. Explain the barriers listed to preaching.
2. Recognise some of the problems preachers struggle with.
3. Recognise problems/issues that preachers face from those hearing their sermons.
4. Analyse qualities a preacher should have to maintain attention of those listening.
5. Analyse how truth plays a role in preaching.
6. Explain what is meant by preaching is whole person communication.
7. Recognise the prerequisites listed for the preacher.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 5
- No textbook reading requirement this week, work on Final Assignment

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 5

1. Professor Nathan discusses the loss of confidence that preacher's face, how do we as listeners impact this statement for those preachers that we listen to, and how do we as preacher's set up boundaries to protect against this statement?
2. Discuss the need for pastoral courage? What does it mean? What does it look like?
3. What does it mean to be authentic in your voice?

In your personal TIME with God:

1. Have you been told that you have a gift for preaching? Do you feel God's prompting to preach? Do you answer 'yes' to the convictions needed for preaching? Do you have a heart for the listener? Ask God to show you what He wishes for you in this area.

Learning Block 6: Preparation and Purpose

Learning outcomes for Lecture 6

1. Explain the importance of preaching to pastoral ministry.
2. Describe the preparation involved in being a preacher.
3. Explain the four levels of preaching.
4. Recognise the four key questions in message development.
5. Analyse the dynamics of preaching with a purpose.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 5:

1. How often should you read through the Bible?
2. Describe the three characteristics of Bible study.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 6
- Read chapter 5

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 6

1. Why must you read and study the bible regularly?
2. Think about what you just heard regarding the preacher's preparation. Discuss what this actually looks like on a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly life plan.
3. Define the 'lone ranger' approach. How do you combat this problem? What does that really look like in application?
4. Discuss the questions that you should be asking when preparing to preach with a purpose. How do you include a 'so what' in every message?

Learning Block 7: Essential Elements of Preaching

Learning outcomes for Lecture 7

1. Analyse the use of illustrations within your preaching.
2. Describe the art of application for the preacher.
3. Explain the importance of writing a good introduction and conclusion.
4. Analyse the impact of knowing how to speak to different people.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 6:

1. Describe the steps in preparing to preach.
2. Explain what it means to learn your sermon by heart.

Textbook objective for Chapter 7:

1. Explain the dangers of hypocrisy.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 7
- Read chapters 6 and 7
- Finalise your Special Assignment in order to be ready to be delivered

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 7

1. What issues can arise when sharing your personal life on the pulpit? How do you avoid these issues yet still be 'personal' with your audience?
2. Discuss how thinking about receiving compliments in your preaching can help you as you plan your sermons.
3. How do you make applications of God's word personal to the listener?
4. Discuss the disastrous ways to start a message and how to make sure these strategies aren't in your skill bag.
5. Discuss the dangers of Universalism and its impact in the church.

In your personal TIME with God:

1. Do you feel the presence of the spirit? Does your faith move you to tears for others? Do you feel a coldness that you haven't brought the Lord into yet?

Read and reflect on Romans 12:9-21 Pray that the Lord will light this passage for your feet and open your heart for its purpose.

Learning Block 8: Evangelism, Stupid Stuff & Preparing to Teach

Learning outcomes for Lecture 8

1. Analyse the different approaches to evangelism.
2. Recognise the main reason why preachers preach.
3. Recognise the mistakes that are made in preaching.
4. Describe the impact and responses to spiritual warfare.
5. Recognise the importance of preaching and teaching.

Textbook objectives for Chapter 8:

1. Recognise the value of systematic exposition.

Reading and lecture requirements

- Listen to Lecture 8
- Read chapter 8

Interactive/Study and Discussion questions for Lecture 8

1. Being able to persuade your listeners to change their mind about an issue is a key strategy in preaching and evangelism, how then do you prepare to do this with every sermon that you preach?
2. Discuss Scripture references that you can memorise that would give you support and counsel as you preach to keep you from being intimidated.
3. Discuss what a typical week of sermon preparation might look like and why?
4. How do you combat pride? Why is this an issue?

In your personal TIME with God:

You should have a spiritual formation partner. This is someone who will walk with you throughout your life encouraging you, challenging you, and above all walking out faith with you. Utilise this person to provide honest feedback on some of your mannerisms. Are there 'hard' areas that need softening or 'soft' areas that may need strengthening? Continue to build this relationship in order that honesty and sincerity may be increased.

Required Reading

Students are asked to read all of the following material for class work. Please review the learning objectives to determine how you will be tested on these materials: Course Textbook, Scripture Reading and PowerPoint material. This is a video-based course, which means that the teacher is not using his own published work on the subject matter of the course to communicate with the students:

Specific chapter-to-lecture breakdown is located above in each learning block.

Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1982
Print and Kindle formats. (351 pages)

This book also has a reprint titled: *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*.

It is available on Amazon.com¹ in both kindle and paperback formats.

Note: Kindle files can be used by anyone who has a computer. A kindle tablet or reader is not necessary. The kindle reader application is free, and installs on all platforms.²

¹ <http://www.amazon.com/> Simply type in the authors first and last name in the search area.

² <http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771> To purchase a book through Kindle, you need to setup an Amazon account. Amazon's automated system will take you through these steps as you install the software.

Video and Virtual Support

If you experience any issues with the on-line courses or streaming videos, please create a ticket from the Home Page, by looking to the bottom right of the page and clicking the link, “Give Feedback”.