

**Austin Graduate School of Theology**  
**MIN 4306: Preaching and Teaching**

**Spring 2020**

**Monday 4:00 – 6:40 PM**

**Instructor:**

Scott Elliott

tscott.elliott@yahoo.com

Phone: 979-966-8161

Office Hours by appointment

**Catalog course description:**

Preaching and Teaching introduces the student to the particulars of developing and delivering theologically grounded sermons and Bible classes. In the course the student will explore the exegetical process, the development of a theme statement, the planning of a series, and use of images in the preaching and teaching ministry. The course will also supply the student with a theological framework for preaching as well as exposure to literature on the subject of preaching and teaching. Students will engage in the process of sermon building through critical reading, responding, analyzing, interpreting, and writing in the course. There is no course prerequisite, although an introductory course in Biblical exegesis is recommended.

**Course objectives:**

- The student will be able to articulate a clear theology of the ministry of preaching and teaching as well as accurately summarize the gospel
- The student will be able to adequately describe the process of building a unified and balanced sermon
- Using sound exegetical technique, the student will be able to interpret biblical passages in order to develop a unifying theme statement
- The student will be equipped with the listening skills to analyze sermons and Bible classes that they will encounter on a weekly basis
- The student will create a theologically grounded sermon that maintains unity, balance, and movement as well as develop an 8–12 week sermon series
- The student will be introduced to different forms, styles, and techniques of preaching and teaching
- The student will be better prepared to engage in the life of ministry

- The student will be equipped with the resources and skills to deliver theologically sound and appropriate images in sermons and Bible Classes

**Means of assessment:**

- Attendance in class sessions is required. The instructor must be notified and convinced of the worthiness of any absence.
- Students are expected to be prepared for each class having read the assigned material and participate in class discussions.
- There will be a sermon lab in this course where each student will deliver a sermon and receive feedback. Each student will turn in a manuscript of their sermon or a detailed outline including a written page which discusses the introduction, focus of the sermon, and conclusion. These sermons will take place on **5/4**
- An 6–12 week sermon series paper will be due with short summaries of each passage in the series along with a focus/function statement attached to each summary due **2/24**
- The student will discuss or outline their sermon passage using three different approaches and turn this in on **3/16**. Each student will write an introductory paragraph where the student explains why this particular approach was chosen. The student will then in paragraph or outline give a brief description of the movements of the sermon within that particular approach.
- A sermon evaluation paper (6–8 pages) is due on **4/13** where the student will choose three sermons to listen to (live or online). The paper will include an introduction that describes the setting of the sermon (preacher will remain anonymous) and the listeners of this church community. The student will evaluate each sermon for its theology, proclamation of the gospel (in contrast to moralistic preaching), and style and delivery of the preacher.
- There will be a midterm (**3/9**)

Grading:

- 25% - Class Participation
- 10% - Planning Series Paper
- 25% - Sermon Lab
- 15% - Evaluating Sermons Paper
- 15% - Midterm
- 10% - Sermon Outline Paper

Grading scale:

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 – 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

0 – 59 = F

### **Resources for Learning:**

Textbooks:

Alcantara, Jared E. *The Practices of Christian Preaching: Essentials for Effective Proclamation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019.

Gordon, David T. *Why Johnny Can't Preach*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2009

Articles: Distributed as needed

### **Class Expectations**

Each class will be divided into three sections. The class will begin with lecture with time for appropriate questions and answers. Next the class will discuss the readings for the week. These will either come from one of the textbooks or handouts provided by the professor ahead of time. Each student is expected to have read the readings and be prepared to participate in the discussions. Finally, each class will end with a sermon workshop. The professor will provide a text ahead of time. Students are expected to have read the text and be prepared to discuss how one might preach the text. Students will be graded on preparedness, participation, and interaction with others.