



TYNDALE
Seminary

**Course Syllabus
Winter Semester 2012**

**PREACHING THE CHRISTIAN BASICS
PAST 0739**

**January 9-April 13
Mondays, 1-3:50 p.m.**

PROFESSOR: Rev. Dr. Kevin Livingston
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 p.m. and Thursdays 10:30-12 noon

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Grounding believers in the essentials of Christian faith is a vital need in every generation, yet in the 'post-Christian' western world we can no longer assume a basic understanding of these essentials, even among churchgoers. This course will emphasize faithful and creative preaching possibilities using the foundational catechetical materials of our faith: the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. Together these orient believers in what we believe, how we pray and worship, and how we conduct our lives. Preaching will be done in class.

PREREQUISITES: Introduction to Preaching PAST 0641 and Biblical Interpretation BIBL 0501

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The central goal of this course is to help form preachers who will faithfully and imaginatively articulate the gospel using the catalyst of the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. More specifically, learners will:

- grapple with the vital yet often neglected relationship between theology and proclamation
- become familiar with classic and contemporary Christian catechisms that expound these Christian basics

- grow in their ability to develop and preach catechetical sermons that are coherent, attractive and persuasive to hearers
- develop practical preaching outlines for future use
- gain wisdom from the “cloud of witnesses” of theologians and preachers across the ages who have taught and preached these Christian basics

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Boers, Arthur. *Lord, Teach Us to Pray: A New Look at the Lord's Prayer*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2008. ISBN 978-1556357855.

Holbert, John. *The Ten Commandments: A Preaching Commentary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN 978-0687090488

Van Harn, Roger, ed. *Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004. ISBN 978-0802821201

Willimon, William. *Proclamation and Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0687493432

Relevant sections from at least two classic and one contemporary catechisms:

Luther's Small and Large Catechisms (1529)

<http://BookofConcord.org/index.php>

Calvin's Geneva Catechism (1545)

<http://www.ondocrtine.com/2cal0504.htm>

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

http://www.crcna.org/pages/heidelberg_main.cfm

Westminster Shorter and Longer Catechisms (1647)

<http://oga.pcusa.org/publications/boc.pdf>

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

The Study Catechism of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (1998)

<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/biblical.pdf>

A Catechism for Today of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (2004)

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/files/webfm/ourfaith/officialdocuments/catechism/CatechismForToday.pdf>

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

Packer, J. I. and Gary Parrett. *Grounded in the Gospel; Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance, Reading and Class Participation (10% of final grade)

Attendance and participation in all class sessions is required. Excused absences are allowed only in cases of illness or personal emergencies. *If you miss more than 20% of the classes, you are not eligible for a pass in the course.*

Blessed is the student who invests the necessary time to read the assigned texts in advance of class! As you read, jot down your questions and observations, which will become a part of our weekly conversation. I look forward to your thoughtful comments and questions that will probe and clarify what it means to preach the Christian basics. At the end of the term I will ask for a written statement summarizing how much of the assigned readings were completed.

2. Willimon Presentation and Questions (10% of final grade)

In groups of two or three, you will present an assigned chapter from Willimon's *Proclamation and Theology* to the class. Each team will have up to 10 minutes to summarize the key themes of their chapter. In addition, each student will write down two questions that arise from your reading. What would you like to ask Willimon? What issues need clarification? These questions will be the basis for a conversation with the whole class. You will turn in your questions in written form to me by the end of class. No points will be given for late submissions.

3. Preaching Series Outlines (40% of final grade, 2 x 20% each)

Students will develop two preaching series outlines. One will be on the Apostles' Creed, and the second will be on either the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer. Each outline will consist of:

- Scripture texts for each sermon
- Sermon titles for each sermon
- The 'big idea' or purpose statement of each sermon articulated in a single sentence
- A paragraph or two for each sermon highlighting the central thrust of the sermon and/or your key sermon 'moves' of the sermon
- Extra Credit: One or two hymns, praise songs or other liturgical elements for each sermon that could be used in the context of worship

We will share our outlines with one another in class and distribute them electronically to one another, in the hope that these will provide fodder for future sermon series.

4. Two Sermons prepared and preached (40% of final grade, 2 x 20% each)

Students will prepare and preach two sermons: one based on a tenet of the Apostles' Creed and the other one from a Commandment or a section of the Lord's Prayer. The length of sermons will be no more than 20 minutes. You are to submit full sermon manuscripts for evaluation. You will receive written feedback from fellow students but sermons will be evaluated by the professor.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar. For proper citation style, consult the *Chicago-Style Quick Guide* (Tyndale e-resource) or the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See <http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/resources>

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Required Reading and Class Participation	10%
Willimon Presentation and Questions	10 %
Preaching Series Outlines (2 x 20%)	40 %
Two sermons preached (2 x 20%)	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Jan. 9 Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Review
Catechesis as a Formational Christian Practice

Jan. 16 Proclamation and Theology
The Necessity and Challenges of Preaching Christian Doctrine

William Willimon, <i>Proclamation and Theology</i> (entire book) John Leith, "Preaching," <i>From Generation to Generation</i> , 82-114
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Due: Willimon presentation and questions

Jan. 23 An Orientation to the Apostles' Creed
Seminar discussion on the first article: I believe in God, the Father...

Van Harn, <i>Exploring & Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed</i> , chs. 1-3 Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

Jan. 30 Seminar Discussion on the second article: I believe in Jesus Christ...

Van Harn, *Exploring & Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed*, chs. 4-10.
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

Feb. 6 Seminar Discussion on the third article: I believe in the Holy Spirit...
Preaching Strategies

Van Harn: *Exploring & Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed*, chs. 11-15.
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

Feb. 13 Preach first sermon on a clause from the Apostles' Creed in groups
Debriefing our sermons

Due: Preaching Series Outline for the Apostles' Creed

Feb. 27 An Orientation to the Ten Commandments
Seminar Discussion on commands 1-4: our duty to God

Holbert, *The Ten Commandments*, chs. 5-10
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

Sermon 1 manuscript, peer evaluations and preaching self-evaluation due

March 5 Seminar discussion on commands 5-10: our duty to our neighbours
Preaching Strategies

Holbert, *The Ten Commandments*, chs. 5-10
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms
Patrick Miller, "Preaching the Ten Commandments"

March 19 An Orientation to the Lord's Prayer
Seminar Discussion: the invocation and three petitions relating to God

Boers, *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*, Introduction and chs. 1-9
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

March 26 Seminar Discussion: three petitions on human needs and the doxology
On preaching the Lord's Prayer

Boers, *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*, Introduction and chs. 10-17
Relevant sections from classic and contemporary catechisms

April 2 Preaching second sermon from the Commandments or the Lord's Prayer in class

April 9 Preaching second sermon from the Commandments or the Lord's Prayer in class

Due: Preaching Series Outline on the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer

By April 16 ***Your Sermon 2 manuscript, peer evaluations and self-evaluation is due.***

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be distributed on the first day of class and will also be posted on the class page.