



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

**WINTER 2019
INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING
PAST 0641**

**JANUARY 15 – APRIL 9, 2019
TUESDAYS, 6:45 – 9:35 PM**

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KEVIN LIVINGSTON

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment at other times

Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

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[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Presents a biblical understanding of the ministry of preaching. Combines principles of effective communication with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to inspire passionate and relevant preaching. Students learn the crucial steps in constructing a biblical sermon. Expository preaching is done in class.

Prerequisites: BIBL 0501 Biblical Interpretation

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Cognitive:

- Articulate their own theology of preaching
- Explain the basic elements of sermon design and delivery
- Describe the key qualities of good storytelling, including both the deep troubles and problems of humanity and the gracious presence of God in everyday life

Affective:

- Demonstrate the conviction that the biblical text is the proper foundation for preaching, as God speaks good news by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Address the needs of listeners in ways that are relevant and engaging
- Show confidence that God is dynamically present in the preaching event

Skills:

- Interpret a biblical text and craft sermons that are coherent, attractive and persuasive to hearers
- Develop greater proficiency in public speaking, Scripture reading and storytelling
- Analyze sermons of experienced preachers and their own peers, in order to help them assess their own preaching and offer constructive feedback to peers
- Plan a preaching schedule

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

1. Textbooks

Hoezee, Scott. *Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons that Matter*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014. (ISBN 978-1400064281) 132 pp.

Hulst, Mary. *A Little Handbook for Preachers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. (ISBN 978-0830841288) 208 pp.

Long, Thomas. *The Witness Of Preaching. 3rd ed.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. (ISBN 978-0664261429) 280 pp.

2. Exegetical/commentary readings

Students will read commentaries and other resources as needed to produce two exegetical reflections on chosen biblical texts.

B. RECOMMENDED/EXTRA CREDIT READING AND TOOLS (PDF copies are on the class page)

Brueggemann, Walter. "The Preacher as Scribe." In *Inscribing the Text: Sermons and Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, edited by Anna Carter Florence, 5-19. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

Craddock, Fred. "The Life of Study." In his *Preaching: 25th Anniversary Edition*, 69-83. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010.

Farris, Stephen. "Exegesis of the Congregation," and "Exegesis of Self." In *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*, edited by Paul Scott Wilson, 266-269. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2008.

Newbigin, Lesslie. "Preaching Christ Today," In his *The Good Shepherd: Meditations on Christian Ministry in Today's World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

Ooms, John. "Planning Ahead: how one pastor was delivered from Monday morning madness," in *Reformed Worship* 55 (2000), 4-6.

Pitt-Watson, Ian. "What Comes First." In his *A Primer for Preachers*, 11-22. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Powery, Luke. "Embodying the Sermon." In his and Sally Brown's *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place*, 183-208. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

Robinson, Haddon. "The Shape Sermons Take." In his *Biblical Preaching 3rd ed.*, 115-137. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.

Stewart, James. "The Preacher's Inner Life." In his *Heralds of God*, 190-222. New York: Charles Scribner's, 1946.

Stott, John and Greg Scharf. "The Call to Study." In their *The Challenge of Preaching*, 40-50. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.

Vanderwell, Howard, "Long-Range Sermon Planning." In *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*, edited by Paul Scott Wilson, 232-234. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2008.

Zenka, Susan. "A Rule of Life for the Preacher: Whole-Life Spirituality and Holistic Preaching." *Call to Worship* 47:3 (2014): 25-32

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Primary assignments for this course include required readings; class participation; submission of weekly reading questions; two preached sermons, along with manuscript and written exegetical notes; and participation in discussion groups. Attendance is mandatory and grades may be reduced for absences not excused.

- 1. Weekly Reading Questions.** Due weeks 2-6 & 7-12. 25% of final grade (2.5 points x 10 weeks plus up to 5 additional bonus points). Write three thoughtful questions and/or observations that arise from your careful reading of Long's *The Witness of Preaching* and Hulst's *A Little Handbook for Preachers* along with the page numbers from the places in the readings that generated your observations/questions. Be sure your questions reflect questions from both textbooks. Your Reading Questions should be no more than 1 page. These "weeklies" must be submitted online on our Class Page by 6 p.m. on the evening of class. No points will be given for any late submission.

You may also earn up to .5 points of extra credit each week if you write an additional question or observation from the recommended reading.

- 2. Preparation and preaching of two sermons, including submission of exegetical notes, full sermon manuscript and a brief (2-3 paragraph) self-evaluation of your preaching experience.** 60% of final grade (30 points x 2). You will prepare exegetical summaries of both texts you are preaching, based on the exegetical model presented in class. Identify and make use of at least three scholarly/critical commentaries, a list of which will be provided on our Class Page. Sermon texts for preaching will be assigned early in the course. The length of sermon will be 15 minutes. When you preach, you may use your manuscript, an outline or without notes, but you must submit a full sermon manuscript; point form or outline is not acceptable. Because the sermons in this class are presumed to be among the student's first sermons, they will simply be graded pass/fail. Grades will be based on sermon manuscripts and exegetical notes. Though the presentation of your sermons will not be graded, they will be carefully evaluated and discussed in class and with the professor. Your first sermon will be preached in small student groups. Your second sermon will be preached before kl.

Nota bene: we will divide into two sections for three weeks of the course (March 26, April 2 and April 9). There will be a "teaching hour" at the beginning of class, followed by students preaching their sermons in two practicum groups in two different locations.

- 3. Reading and Discussion Groups.** 15% of final grade (5 points x 3). Discussion groups will be held three times during the course: Feb 5 (week 4); Feb 26 (week 6); and March 12 (week 8). These discussion groups cover specific sections of Scott Hoezee's *Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons That Matter*. See the "Discussion Groups" folder on the course page for details on the functioning of discussion groups, and a list of questions for each session.

Missed discussion group sessions count as zero unless otherwise arranged with the professor in writing. Students will only be excused from these sessions on the same basis as extensions for assignments therefore students should verify that they are available for each group session date at the beginning of the semester. After each discussion group session, the group leader will submit the grades to the professor in hard copy on the template provided by the professor within three days. Grading criteria will be provided on the template.

D. ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Jan 22	Reading Questions 1
Jan 29	Reading Questions 2
Feb 5	Reading Questions 3 Discussion Group 1, reflecting on Hoezee, Introduction and ch. 1
Feb 12	Reading Questions 4
Feb 26	Reading Questions 5 Discussion Group 2, reflecting on Hoezee, ch. 2
March 5	All students preach sermon 1
March 12	Reading Questions 6 Discussion Group 3, reflecting on Hoezee, ch. 3 Turn in Sermon 1 exegetical notes, manuscript, & self-evaluation
March 19	Reading Questions 7
March 26	Reading Questions 8 Some students preach sermon 2
April 2	Reading Questions 9 Some students preach sermon 2 Some turn in Sermon 2 exegetical notes, manuscript, & self-evaluation
April 9	Reading Questions 10 Some students preach sermon 2 Some turn in Sermon 2 exegetical notes, manuscript, & self-evaluation
April 16	Some turn in Sermon 2 exegetical notes, manuscript, & self-evaluation

E. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the Accessibility Services at the Centre for Academic Excellence to register and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

F. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Reading Questions (10 x 2.5%)	25%
Sermon 1 Manuscript, Exegetical Notes, Self-Eval.	30%
Sermon 2 Manuscript, Exegetical Notes, Self-Eval.	30%
Hoezee Reading and Discussion Groups (3 x 5%)	15%
Total Grade	100%

G. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Documentation Style

Exegetical summaries should follow proper documentation style. For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#). Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

H. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Jan 15 Orientation: What makes for a worthy sermon?

Required Reading: Long, Introduction; Hulst, Introduction & Conclusion
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Welcome and syllabus review
Images of preachers
What makes for a worthy sermon?

Jan 22 Theologizing: What is God doing when we preach?

Required Reading: Long, ch. 1; Hulst, chs. 2 & 3
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Recommended Reading: Pitt-Watson

Preaching from below: self-knowledge and bearing witness
Preaching from above: participating in God's work
The Priority of grace: indicatives before imperatives
Practicum: speaking for audibility, clarity and emphasis

Jan 29 Exegeting: What does this text say?

Required Reading: Long, chs. 3; Hulst, ch. 1
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Recommended Reading: Brueggemann

Exegesis for preaching
The preacher as scribe
Lectio Divina and getting immersed in the text
The importance of a *single* idea: the claim of the text

Feb 5 Bridge-Building: What does this text mean for us today?; Discussion Gp. 1

Required Reading: Long, ch. 2; Hulst, chs. 6 & 7; Hoezee, Intro. & Ch. 1
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Recommended Reading: Farris

Preaching as the hermeneutical task of bridge-building
The exegesis of life: self, congregation and culture
Preaching with cultural intelligence
Group Activity: Discussion 1 on *Actuality*

Feb 12 Discerning: What is the focus and function of this sermon

Required Reading: Long, ch. 4; Hulst, chs. 4

Recommended Reading: Newbigin

The focus and function of the sermon
The qualities of a sermon (Craddock)
Preaching the gospel and preaching Christ
Practicum: What's your text's claim? What is your sermon's focus and function?

Feb 26 Designing: What form should this sermon take?; Discussion Gp. 2

Required Reading: Long, chs. 5 & 6; Hoezee, Ch. 2

Recommended Reading: Robinson

Form and function
Common sermon forms
Practicum: pondering the best form for your sermon
Group Activity: Discussion 2 on *Actuality*

March 5 Preaching and Evaluating: Offering gracious and truthful feedback

Required Reading: Hulst, ch. 10

Offering gracious feedback – strategies to speak the truth in love
Sermon 1 (15 minute maximum; preached in small groups)

March 12 Introductions and conclusions; illustrations and storytelling; Discussion Gp. 3

Required Readings: Long, chs. 7 & 8; Hulst, ch. 5, Hoezee, ch. 3

Beginnings and endings
Illustrations, implications, applications
Show, don't tell
Showing trouble, showing grace
Group Activity: Discussion 3 on *Actuality*

March 19 Words, orality, rehearsal and delivery

Required Readings: Long, ch. 10; Hulst, ch. 8

Recommended Reading: Powery

The power of words
Writing and orality: preaching for the ear as well as the eye
Manuscript, Outline or Without Notes?
Embodying your sermon: purposeful gestures and the sound of your voice
Rehearsal and revision: practice makes perfect

March 26 Sustaining the preaching life: sermon planning; some preach Sermon Two

Required Reading: Long, ch. 9 & 11

Recommended Reading: Vanderwell, Ooms

Striving to provide a balanced preaching diet
Sermon planning: annual, seasonal, and weekly tasks
Preaching and Plagiarism
Course Evaluation

April 2 Sustaining the preaching life: the call to study; some preach Sermon Two

Required Reading: Hulst, ch. 9 and Stott
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Activity: Some preach Sermon 2

Self-less Preaching
The call to study

April 9 Sustaining the preaching life: the inner life; some preach Sermon Two

Required Reading: Zenka and Stewart

Activity: Some preach Sermon 2

A Rule of Life for Preachers
Preaching Virtues: sincerity, earnestness, courage and humility

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

A. Reference Works

Larson, Craig Brian and Haddon Robinson, eds. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

McClure, John. *Preaching Words: 144 Key Terms in Homiletics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *The Reading and the Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church*. 7 vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998-2010.

Willimon, William and Richard Lischer, eds. *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Wilson, Paul Scott, ed. *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.

B. Biblical and Theological and Cultural Foundations for Preaching Today

Adam, Peter. *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Expository Preaching*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Billings, Todd. *The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010.

Goheen, Michael and Craig Bartholomew. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story, Second Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Johnson, Patrick. *The Mission of Preaching: Equipping the Community for Faithful Witness*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.

Keller, Timothy. *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Viking, 2015.

Kim, Matthew. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

Peterson, Eugene. *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006.

Tisdale, Lenora Tubbs. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997.

Willimon, William. *Proclamation and Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

C. Preaching Textbooks

Brown, Sally and Luke Powery. *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon, Third edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching, 25th Anniversary Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010.

Johnson, Darrell. *The Glory of Preaching*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching, Third Edition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching, 3rd edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Practice of Preaching: Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.

D. Some older and newer "classics"

Forsyth, P. T. *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind*. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1906. Reprinted 2012 by HardPress Publishing.

Hulst, Mary. *A Little Handbook for Preachers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Praxis, 2016.

Lischer, Richard, ed. *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching, Augustine to the Present*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.

Peterson, Eugene. *As Kingfishers Catch Fire: A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Word of God*. New York: Waterbrook, 2017.

Spurgeon, Charles. *Lectures to My Students*. Reprinted 2010 by Hendrickson Publishers.

Stewart, James. *Heralds of God*. London: Hodder, 1946. Reprinted 2001 by Regent College Publishing.

Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982. Abridged and updated by Greg Scharf as *The Challenge of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Lanham, Md.: Cowley Publications, 1993.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of A Sermon: Revised and Updated*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018.