



**LOS ANGELES DISTRICT TRAINING CENTER**  
*Member of the Alliance for Ministry Training*

**PAS-3033 CHRISTIAN PREACHING 1**  
**WINTER- 2003-04 - THREE SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT**  
**SYLLABUS - KEEP THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO**

**COURSE PROFESSOR:**

**Charles W. Smith:** D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1998; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary, 1975; B.A., Point Loma Nazarene University (Pasadena College), 1972; Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1976-Present; Pastor, United Church of Christ, 1973-76; Youth Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1970-73. Office 818-368-0700; Cell 818-489-8995; FAX 818-368-3075; (chucks717@aol.com). Pastor of Northridge New Life Church of the Nazarene.

**CLASS LOCATION:**

Northridge New Life Church of the Nazarene, 10650 Reseda Blvd., Northridge, CA 91326-3131

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Friday, January 30, 1:30 p.m. -10:35 p.m.; Saturday, January 31, 8 a.m. - 6:05 p.m.  
Friday, February 27, 1:30 p.m. -10:35 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m. - 6:05 p.m.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

1. Holy Bible (version of your choice).
2. Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 1985. ISBN: 0687336368
3. Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1998. ISBN: 0801090598
4. Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward An Exegetical Theology*. Baker Book House, 1998 ISBN: 0801021979
5. Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 1989. ISBN: 0804215715

NOTE: Students are responsible to have the required textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to homiletical principles and the practice of sermon preparation.  
*NBC prerequisites: Introduction to the Old Testament and Introduction to the New Testament, Biblical Interpretation, Principles of Public Speaking, and two English courses.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The following competencies as outlined in the Sourcebook for Ministerial Development to meet the educational requirements for Ordination within the Church of the Nazarene will be achieved by completing this course:

1. Ability to exegete a passage of Scripture using the steps of historical, literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis. (CN-17)
2. Ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning. (CP-1)
3. Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons using appropriate techniques and skills and in culturally appropriate ways. (CP-12)
4. Ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to preaching such as narrative, inductive, deductive, etc. (CP-13)

5. Ability to envision, order, participate, and lead in contextualized theologically grounded worship. (CP-17)
6. Ability to preach evangelistically and to be engaged with and equip others in personal and congregational evangelism. (CP-20)

The following are additional objectives that are achieved by this course:

1. To observe and reflect upon a practice of preaching which arises from the creative interplay between biblical imagery, spiritual formation, and the liturgical setting of a sermon.
2. To locate tools that effectively nourish and discipline the imagination of the preacher.
3. To define and utilize an approach to sermon construction which maximizes the integrity of the scriptures and the creativity of the preacher.
4. To provide an opportunity for dialogue about preaching between students and their pastor involved in pulpit ministry.
5. To identify, analyze, and develop contemporary resources and methods.

### **COURSE ASSUMPTIONS:**

As a part of the course offerings of the Alliance for Ministry Training of Nazarene Bible College, this class aligns with the mission of the college. Central to that mission is the preparation of adults for ministry -- usually first-time ministry. All course work, lectures, projects, etc., will focus on entry-level praxis of ministry. Although it is recognized that some students taking this course may have pastoral experience, others will not. Therefore, we will all start together at “ground zero.” If some information seems overly simplistic for the experienced, your insights will assist others who are in the beginning stages of their learning curve.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Class Attendance and participation in dialogue with classmates and the instructor** – For the class to fulfill the requirements of the Alliance for Ministry training, it is necessary that class time not be reduced. No absences are allowed in this intensive two weekend course.

**2. Reading Reports/Insights** – Read the four textbooks as assigned and submit four reading reports noting completion of each book (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

**3. Presentation of Biblical Sermon To Class** – Each student is to prepare a sermon manuscript, based on a text assigned by the instructor, and preach it to the class (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements)..

**4. Biblical Sermon Preached Outside Of Class** – Each student is to prepare a sermon manuscript, based on a text selected by the student, that will be preached outside of class. A reflection paper shall also be submitted (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

**5. Final Test** – An open book final exam will cover our reading, lectures, and class discussion. The exam will be composed of true/false, multiple-choice, and short-answer questions (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The basis of evaluation for the course assignments will be as follows:

Attendance, Dialogue, and Discussion.....	200 points	(20%)
Reading Reports/Insights.....	240 points	(24%)
Sermon and Presentation .....	230 points	(23%)
Sermon and Reflection Paper .....	230 points	(23%)
Final Test.....	<u>100 points</u>	<u>(10%)</u>
Total Possible Points .....	1,000 points	(100%)

The final grade will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

A+ - 970 - 1000		C - 735 - 769
A - 935 - 969		C- - 701 - 734
A- - 901 - 934		D+ - 670 - 700
B+ - 870 - 900		D - 635 - 669
B - 835 - 869		D- - 601 - 634
B- - 801 - 834		F - 600 or below
C+ - 770 - 800		

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. Friday, Weekend One –
  - Syllabus
  - Introduction To Christian Preaching, Style, Substance, Proclamation And It's Role
  - Formation Of The Sermon
  - Basics Of Communication
  - Definition And History of Exegesis
  - Biblical And Theological Foundations Of Homiletics
  - Basic Strategies And Small Group Dynamics
  - Culture And Understanding Context
  - Exercises To Develop Preaching Skills
  
2. Saturday, Weekend One –
  - The Personal Holiness Of The Messenger
  - Deductive Versus Inductive Proclamation
  - Culture And Understanding Context, (Continued)
  - Comparison Of Form: Exegetical Preaching And Narrative Preaching
  - Subject And Complement - Framing The Big Idea Of The Text
  - Living The Sermon, Assimilation And Reality Preaching
  - Exercises To Develop Preaching Skills
  
3. Friday, Weekend Two –
  - Authority For Preaching
  - Communication Issues For Postmodern Times
  - Preaching That Connects, Techniques To Add Impact
  - Language Theory In Postmodern Times, Choosing Memorable Language To Keep The Sermon Focused And Moving
  - Illustration And Imagery, Story And Metaphor
  - Class Preaching Experiences And Evaluation
  
4. Saturday, Weekend Two –
  - What Is Expository, Textual, Topical And Biblical Preaching?
  - Class Preaching Experiences And Evaluation
  - Theme And Titles, Planning The Preaching Calendar
  - Use Of Prophecy, Narrative And Poetry In Expository Preaching
  - Overview Of Websites And Preaching Resources
  - Exercises To Develop Preaching Skills
  - Final Examination

## ASSIGNMENTS - COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

**READING REPORT/INSIGHTS:** Each student is to complete reading the four required textbooks. Four reading reports are required that includes insights from the material. Reading reports are to utilize the reading report form at the end of the syllabus, including a paragraph on the thesis of the book, two principles learned and five pertinent quotations. There is a total of 60 possible points for each reading report. Points will be awarded on the basis of thoughtful and reflective content. A student receiving 40 points will reflect the work of someone who has completed all the requirements of the assignment in a satisfactory manner. Points awarded between 40-50 points will reflect superior work and points awarded over 50 points will reflect exceptional work and extra effort. Students will have until March 14 to email the reading reports to Dr. Smith at [chucks717@aol.com](mailto:chucks717@aol.com) or FAX 818-368-3075. Late work will be received until April 1. A student will have up to 10 points deducted for any report that is turned in late, and up to 10 points for any report that does not meet the minimum length. There is a total of 240 possible points for reading reports.

**PRESENTATION OF TWO BIBLICAL SERMONS:** Each student will preach two original sermons, one in class and one outside of class, developed specifically for this course. These two original complete sermon manuscripts will be between 1,750 and 2,500 words (7-10 pages).

**THE SERMON PREACHED IN CLASS** will be drawn from an assigned biblical text from the instructor. One printed copy of the sermon manuscript is to be distributed to the instructor for discussion on that date. If the student is preaching from an outline, a copy of the outline taken to the pulpit must also be submitted with the manuscript. The preaching of the class sermon, reading of the text, and any other liturgical elements shall be done in the space of no longer than 15 minutes. Multi-media resources (overhead transparencies, PowerPoint presentations), printed outlines or hand-outs are also encouraged. There is a total of 230 possible points for the sermon and presentation. The DUE DATE for this assignment is February 27 (the second intensive weekend). If the project is received late, the student will receive no more than 50% of the credit that would have otherwise been earned. Each student is requested to bring an empty VHS tape for recording the message to take home and review.

**THE SERMON PREACHED OUTSIDE OF CLASS** will have a text selected by the student. The manuscript shall be submitted to the instructor prior to the Trimester Due Date of March 14, with a two-page reflection paper evaluating the experience. Students will have until March 14 to email the manuscript and reflection paper to Dr. Smith at [chucks717@aol.com](mailto:chucks717@aol.com) or FAX 818-368-3075. Late work will be received until April 1. There is a total of 230 possible points for the manuscript and reflection paper.

**SERMON FORMAT: THE FIRST PAGE** is to be a title page, which shall include: the name of the course, the name of the preacher, the biblical text(s), the title, the text function sentence, and a brief descriptive paragraph of the congregation for which it has been prepared.

### **DISCOVERY (5-6 pages)**

- a) Theological Plot - What is the genre, setting, and function of the text?
- b) Question Being Answered - What is the human problem the text is attempting to provide an answer to? What is the "need" of the text either in the passage itself, or the literary/historical context?
- c) Response of the Reader - What does the text want the reader to do in response to the human dilemma and God-answer being provided? How does the literary form of the text inform the desired response?
- d) Vision of God - What does this text tell us about God? What is the image of God portrayed to us?

### **HOMILETICAL RATIONALE (2-3 pages)**

Good preachers develop their sermons by exegeting both the text and their congregation. Based on your actual congregation (attitudes, world-views, misunderstandings of faith, etc.), describe your process and strategy for sermon design as it relates to the theological assumptions of the biblical text.

The manuscripts should exhibit sound exegesis and proper re-functioning of the biblical text, creative thinking, and polished and efficient writing structure.

**FINAL EXAM** - Each student will take an open book final exam at the end of the last session. The exam will be composed of true/false, multiple-choice and essay questions. Up to 100 points may be earned on this test. The final test is with open book, class notes, etc. allowed. Any resources at the disposal of the student are allowed, other than help from any another individual.

**EXTRA CREDIT OPTION #1:** Prepare and submit a 160 – 240 word summary of what you felt were the most important things you learned in this course. This should show thoughtful reflection of all the material covered over the course. Students will have until March 14 to email the summary to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. This will have a possible value of 25 points. This is an optional extra credit assignment and may not be turned in late.

**EXTRA CREDIT OPTION #2:** Prepare and submit three evaluation forms for sermons you have heard. Students will have until March 14 to email the series outline to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. This will have a possible value of 25 points. Again, this is an optional extra credit assignment and may not be turned in late.

### **SPECIAL COURSE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Assignments may be turned in early (that is prior to the due date). Assignments may also be turned in late for partial credit. Full credit will require correct grammar and accurate spelling. Turning assignments in “on time” is very important so other students may reflect upon your work (i.e. presentation of biblical sermon/lesson/drama).
2. Avoid the serious offense of plagiarism by simply referencing all quotes and ideas that come from any source other than you.
3. We understand that a spouse or friend may assist you with a paper by proofreading it for grammar and content. However, to allow another party to virtually “do the assignment for you” is unacceptable.
4. The student is encouraged to “scan” read when needed. This does two things for you. It gives you a passing acquaintance with the material overall, and it helps you to decide which areas you need to focus on for a more detailed study effort.

### **REGULAR DUE DATES**

- The Reading Reports are due March 14, and will be received until April 1 (late).
- The Presentation of a Biblical Sermon to class is due February 27.
- The manuscript and reflection paper for the Biblical Sermon preached outside of class is due March 14, and will be received until April 1 (late).
- Extra Credit assignments are due March 14.

### **COURSE DESIGN:**

This course is presented in an intensive format over two weekends. The class will consist of lecture, small group discussions, in class projects, student projects, hands on experience and student presentations (see Course Objectives above).

### **OVERVIEW**

- Syllabus
- Introduction To Christian Preaching, Style, Substance, Proclamation And It's Role
- Formation Of The Sermon
- Basics Of Communication
- Definition And History of Exegesis

- Biblical And Theological Foundations Of Homiletics
- Basic Strategies And Small Group Dynamics
- Culture And Understanding Context
- Exercises To Develop Preaching Skills
- The Personal Holiness Of The Messenger
- Deductive Versus Inductive Proclamation
- Comparison Of Form: Exegetical Preaching And Narrative Preaching
- Subject And Complement - Framing The Big Idea Of The Text
- Living The Sermon, Assimilation And Reality Preaching
- Authority For Preaching
- Communication Issues For Postmodern Times
- Preaching That Connects, Techniques To Add Impact
- Language Theory In Postmodern Times, Choosing Memorable Language To Keep The Sermon Focused And Moving
- Illustration And Imagery, Story And Metaphor
- Class Preaching Experiences And Evaluation
- What Is Expositional, Textual, Topical And Biblical Preaching?
- Class Preaching Experiences And Evaluation
- Theme And Titles, Planning The Preaching Calendar
- Use Of Prophecy, Narrative And Poetry In Expository Preaching
- Overview Of Websites And Preaching Resources

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth. *Creative Preaching: Finding the Words*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.
- Boomershine, Thomas E. *Story Journey: An Invitation to the Gospel As Storytelling*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech For Proclamation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Bryson, Harold T. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.
- Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale*. New York: Harper and Row, 1977.
- Busic, David; Graham, Billy; Dunnam, Maxie; Huffman, John A. Jr.; Peterson, Eugene; Robinson, Haddon W.; Salter, Darius; Willimon, William; Achtemeier, Elizabeth R.; Massey, James Earl; Dawn, Marva J.; Childers, Jana. *The Pastor's Guide to Effective Preaching*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2003.
- Buttrick, David G. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Coles, Robert. *The Call of Stories: Teaching and Moral Imagination*. Houghton Mifflin, 1990.
- Craddock, Fred B. *Overhearing the Gospel*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.
- Eslinger, Richard L. *A New Hearing: Living Options In Homiletical Method*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.
- Galli, Mark and Larson, Craig Brian. *Preaching that Connects: Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Gowan, Donald E. *Reclaiming the Old Testament for the Christian Pulpit*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1976.

- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Hopewell, James F. *Congregation: Stories and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Lewis, Ralph L. and Lewis, Gregg. *Inductive Preaching: Helping People Listen*. Westchester, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1983.
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *How To Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.
- Mitchell, Henry. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.
- Simmons, Martha J., ed. *Preaching on the Brink: The Future of Homiletics*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1982.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons From the Episcopal Series of the Protestant Radio Hour*. Cincinnati: Forward Movement Publications, 1990.
- Troeger, Thomas H. *Imagining A Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Wardlaw, Don M., ed. *Preaching Biblically: Creating Sermons in the Shape of Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *Imagination of the Heart*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Practice of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Wilson-Kastner, Patricia. *Imagery For Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

## LINKS

Check out these websites for useful resources on preaching and culture.

**A Good Argument** - <http://www.unco.edu/philosophy/arg.html>

Understanding the logic of argumentation.

**Evangelical Homiletics Society** - [www.evangelicalhomiletics.com](http://www.evangelicalhomiletics.com)

The website of the E.H.S., an organization of professional homileticians dedicated to the advancement of the cause of biblical preaching.

**Farther In and Deeper Down** - [www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/004/4.52.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/004/4.52.html)

“Evangelicals of all stripes are reviving the neglected art of expository preaching” by Edward Gilbreath.

**Gordon-Conwell D.Min in Preaching** - [www.gcts.edu/dmin/preach.html](http://www.gcts.edu/dmin/preach.html)

Information regarding Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's D.Min program focusing on “The Preacher and The Message.” Haddon Robinson is the faculty mentor for this program.

**Harold Bullock** - [www.haroldbullock.com](http://www.haroldbullock.com)

A tremendous source of training resources and leadership wisdom from one of America's best church leadership mentors.

**Hear the Word** - <http://www.biblestudy.f9.co.uk/index.htm>

Links to thousands of sites where you can listen to sermons online. These sites are sorted according to denomination.

**Homiletics Online** - [www.homileticsonline.com](http://www.homileticsonline.com)

A subscription service offering sermon helps for preachers.

**Leadership Journal** - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/leaders>

Leadership offers the help you need to enrich, expand, and strengthen your ministry. Renew your energy for ministry with Leadership's credible solutions, innovative ideas, and compelling challenges.

**Leonard Sweet** - [www.leonardsweet.com](http://www.leonardsweet.com)

A portal to all things Len. A cornucopia of ideas from the guru of Christian postmodernity.

**Mars Hill Forum** - [www.marshillforum.org](http://www.marshillforum.org)

A site dedicated to the consideration of how Christ is revealed in culture.

**Nazarene Pastor** - <http://www.nazarenepastor.org>

Resources for Nazarene pastors.

**Pastors.com** - [www.pastors.com](http://www.pastors.com)

Full feature site from Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church. Access to Rick's vast archive of sermon outlines (and more) requires a subscription.

**Postmodern Preaching** - [www.postmodernpreaching.net](http://www.postmodernpreaching.net)

A series of articles on the subject of preaching in postmodern times.

**Preachers Magazine** - <http://www.preachersmagazine.org>

Resources from the Nazarene preachers magazine.

**Preaching Magazine Online** - [www.preaching.com](http://www.preaching.com)

Features and sermon ideas based on material from Preaching magazine. A certain level of info is available for free. Full access to the site is by subscription.

**Preaching Today** - [www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com)

Helping preachers add power to their messages with fresh illustrations, quotes and anecdotes. The site has several thousand pieces available. Subscription required for full access.

**PreachingPlus** - [www.preachingplus.com](http://www.preachingplus.com)

Featuring images, illustrations and sermons by people like Len Sweet and others.

**Sermon Audio** - [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com)

Listen to sermons in real time or upload your own sermons for others to hear.

**Sermon Central** - <http://www.sermoncentral.com>

35,000 sermons, illustrations, and outlines.

**The Biblical Theology Briefings** - [www.beginningwithmoses.org](http://www.beginningwithmoses.org)

Modelling the major difference that biblical theology can make to preaching, this is very helpful site encouraging preaching that does not moralize, allegorize, or spiritualize.

**The Counter Argument** - <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Counterarg.html>

From Harvard University, the power of employing a challenge to our argument.

**The Heresy of Application** - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/714/714020.html>

Haddon Robinson from Leadership journal.

**The Ooze** - [www.theooze.com](http://www.theooze.com)

Christian community with a postmodern flavor. Plenty of insightful articles on the future of the church.

**The Six Stories You Need to Know How to Tell** -

<http://www.storytellingcenter.com/resources/articles/simmons.htm>

Storytelling skills revealed.

**Today's Preacher** - <http://todayspreacher.faithsite.com>

A place to consider the challenge of preaching in contemporary life.

**READING REPORT/INSIGHTS**

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of Book Read \_\_\_\_\_%

**Thesis:** (One Paragraph)

**Principle #1 Learned:** (One Paragraph on how this will help you in ministry)

**Principle #2 Learned:** (One Paragraph on how this will help you in ministry)

**Quotes:** (Give 5 quotes with page number)

**SERMON EVALUATION FORM****PREACHER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Excellent - Poor
1. Exegetical accuracy:	5 4 3 2 1
2. Theological content:	5 4 3 2 1
3. Hermeneutical integrity:	5 4 3 2 1
4. Contemporary relevance:	5 4 3 2 1
5. Introduction compelling:	5 4 3 2 1
6. Conclusion delayed:	5 4 3 2 1
7. Unity and focus of the sermon:	5 4 3 2 1
8. Movement - Did each step flow naturally from proceeding?:	5 4 3 2 1
9. Concrete language, specific and natural:	5 4 3 2 1
10. Effective use of images, metaphors, illustrations, etc.:	5 4 3 2 1
11. Audience, Did it speak TO or FOR the hearers? Achieve common ground?:	5 4 3 2 1
12. Delivery:	5 4 3 2 1
Presence -	5 4 3 2 1
Gestures -	5 4 3 2 1
Eye Contact -	5 4 3 2 1
Enunciation -	5 4 3 2 1
Voice: tone, volume, pitch, pace -	5 4 3 2 1
Facial expression -	5 4 3 2 1
Effectiveness -	5 4 3 2 1