

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT)  
Syllabus for HM – 1073 Foundations of Preaching  
Fall 2018 Tuesdays, 8:10 to 11:00 am and 12:40 to 3:30 pm, in DSPT Chapel  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, we will explore the nature and art of preaching, especially in the homily in liturgical celebrations, as understood by the Catholic Church. This exploration will lead us into a consideration of Scripture on which all homilies are based and so to the interpretation of Scripture which allows and enables an engagement with the concrete and actual needs and concerns of the congregation addressed. At the same time, we will explore the skills of public speaking necessary for the art of preaching, such as the appropriate proclamation of Scripture, the elements of rhetoric and the use of preaching aids. (3.0 units)

**PHILOSOPHY:** The primary concern of this course is that the student studies, thinks and prays so as to deepen his or her personal appreciation for the act of preaching. Each student is expected to sincerely try to absorb and reflect on what is offered in this course and apply it to their own act of preaching

**COURSE GOALS:** The goal of this Foundational course is to enable the student to develop the skills necessary to prepare and deliver, daily, a five-minute homily on a text of Scripture. To this end, the student will learn the necessary skills of preparing the text of Scripture for proclamation so that its meaning is readily grasped and then preparing and delivering a short homily that will encounter the congregation with Jesus who is made present in the proclamation of the Scriptural text. In conjunction with the above goals, the student will be assisted in developing a theology of preaching and a spirituality that will assist his or her Christian ministry.

Because of the variations in enrollment and the differing needs of the students, this syllabus may be amended in response to the concrete needs of the students.  
This Syllabus is provisional!

**FORMAT:** Lecture and practicum. Students will be expected to make presentations of their work and preach several 5 minute homilies. They will also be required to submit papers on various stages of preparing the Scriptures for homilies and on the theological basis for the Catholic understanding of preaching.

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:** Anyone interested in the nature and practice of preaching according to the Catholic understanding of that charism, clerical and lay.

**EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. During the course the student will develop and present at least three, hopefully more, homilies. The text of the homily will be due the day before its presentation.
2. After each presentation, the class will critique the act of preaching in a positive way so as to help the presenter improve his or her preaching skills.

3. To assist the students in developing their preaching skills, a lecture on one or more aspects of preaching and its theology/spirituality will be delivered and then discussed in the following class.
4. When necessary, one or more short research papers will be required.
5. At times, a short quiz may be given to ascertain that the students have read and comprehended the required texts.
6. The final grade will depend upon the effort made by the student to improve their preaching skills, class participation, required research papers and any quiz grades.

**REQUIREMENTS:** (1) Attendance, (2) presentation and or papers of some of the elements in the process of composing a homily, (3) proclamation of Scripture (4) preaching of several 5 minute homilies, (6) and a critique of other students work and homilies.

1. Because the student is needed not only to present their own work and critique the work of others, absence for more than 3 classes makes them ineligible for a grade for the course. (10% of grade)
2. During the course, the student may be asked to present their work of preparing the homily or a skill assisting their development of the homily either as a paper or oral presentation or both. (10% of grade)
3. Before every homily, the student will be required to proclaim the text of Scripture upon which it is based. ( 20% of grade)
4. During the course, each student will be expected to prepare and preach several 5 min homilies based on a specific text of Scripture. ( 50% of grade)
5. Every student will be expected to critique the preaching of the other students ... BUT NOT IN ORDER TO TEAR DOWN OR EMBARRASS THE PREACHER BUT TO POINT OUT WAYS IN WHICH THE PREACHER CAN IMPROVE AND GROW! (10% of grade)

**GRADES:**

A summary of grade composition is given in the following table:

1. Attendance: 10%
  2. Papers and presentations: 10%
  3. Proclamation of Scripture: 20%
  4. Preaching of homilies 50%
  5. Critique of other students work 10%
- Total 100%

Grading Scale: A=100, A-=97, B+=93, B=90, B-=87, C+=83, C=80, C-=77, D+=73, D=70, F=0. No late work of any kind will be accepted (except, at my discretion, for very serious reasons).

Grading of papers and presentations, proclamations and homilies and critiques are assigned according to the following criteria:

- A. Demonstration of a clear and positive understanding to the elements of preaching.

- B. Demonstration of a clear grasp of the ‘grace of the text of Scripture’ as it relates to the concrete need and condition of the people addressed.
- C. Demonstration of a positive effort to improve their understanding of the elements of preaching and their ability to prepare and deliver a 5 minute homily.

**REQUIRED TEXTS (All these texts are on line , in the GTU library or will be given out by the professor):**

- Benedict XVI, “Sacramentum caritatis”
- Benedict XVI, “Verbum Domini”, 2010.
- Bible: A Complete Bible with all the books of recognized as canonical by the Roman Catholic Church, Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition, Jerusalem Bible, New American Bible, etc.
- Code of Canon Law
- Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Sacred Congregation of Rites, Instruction Eucharisticum mysterium (25 May 1967)
- Congregation for Divine Worship, Instruction Liturgicae instaurationes (5 September 1970)
- Congregation for the Clergy, General Catechetical Directory (11 April 1971)
- Congregation for the Clergy, Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests (31 January 1994)
- Congregation for Bishops, Apostolorum successores (22 February 2004)
- Homiletic Directory, Vatican City, 2014
- Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelium gaudium
- General Introduction to the Lectionary, second edition
- General Instruction of the Roman Missal
- John Paul II, “General Audience”, 4 October 2000
- John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores dabo vobis
- John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores gregis
- John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, Dies Domini
- John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, Novo millennio ineunte
- Paul VI, “Evangelii Nuntiandi”, 1976
- Pontifical Biblical Commission, “The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church”, 1994
- Rozakis, Laurie E., “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Public Speaking (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), 1999 or similar book on the principles of public speaking. Your choice. (See the GTU Library)
- Sachs, John R, S.J., “Holy Spirit in Christian Worship” in the “The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship”, editor Peter E. Fink, S.J., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- The Documents of Vatican II
- USCCB, “Fulfilled in your hearing: Homily in the Sunday Assembly”, National \ Council of Catholic Bishops, 1982
- USCCB, Preaching the Mystery of Faith, the Sunday homily

**Class Calendar and Assignments:** This syllabus is very provisional due to the varying number of students and the practical needs that they will encounter in preparing and delivering homilies.

**Session 01: September 04, 2018**

**Lecture:** Introductory material, Charity's Critique, Paradigm for Catholic worship and ministry, Relation of rhetoric and preaching

**Assignment:** Read and study: the following documents from the Second Vatican Council: "Dei Verbum" and "Sacrosanctum Concilium".

Prepare the assigned Scriptural text by outlining it, finding related texts in Scripture and be prepared to discuss its obvious meaning.

**Session 02: September 11, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discussion on the relation of preaching to Scripture in "Dei Verbum" and "Sacrosanctum Concilium".

Presentation of the outline of the assigned Scriptural text, the related Scriptural texts and the obvious meaning of the assigned Scriptural text.

**Lecture:** Primacy of Scripture, Nature and Importance of Proclaiming the text

**Assignment:** Read and Study Pontifical Biblical Commission, "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church", 1994

**Session 03: September 18, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the importance and limitation of the historical-critical method and compare the literal meaning of Scripture with the understanding of Scripture when as used in the documents of the Church.

**Lecture:** The dead page to living Word.

**Assignment:** Read and study: John R Sachs, S.J., "Holy Spirit in Christian Worship" in the "The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship", editor Peter E. Fink, S.J., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Prepare the Scriptural text for proclamation

**Session 04: September 25, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discussion of the importance of Scripture and Zikkaron.

Proclamation of the Scriptural Passage and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Word Craft, Principles of Public Speaking, Study of the Scriptural Text

**Assignment:** Study and develop an exegesis for the assigned Scriptural text. Read and study you chosen text on the principles of public speaking.

**Session 05: October 02, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the ways of studying the text of Scripture and the tools to be used Present the exegesis of the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Prayer over Scripture, Resonance and Illustration

**Assignment:** Write a parable or a drama or other illustration of the assigned Scriptural text.

Session 06: October 09, 2018

**Practicum:** Presentation of the illustration of the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Haiku as Focusing

**Discussion:** Scripture and Prayer

**Assignment:** Write 10 Haiku on the assigned Scriptural text. Proclaim the Haiku.

**Session 07: October 16, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the primacy of simplicity and focus.

Presentation of the Haiku and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Preparation and Delivery

**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on the assigned Scriptural text.

**Session 08: October 30, 2018**

**Practicum:** Development and preparation of the homily

Proclamation of and preaching on the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Developing preaching off of non-Scriptural texts

**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on an article from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

**Session 06: November 06, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss preaching on non-Scriptural texts

Proclamation of a text of Scripture and preaching the homily written for an article from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Nature of the act of preaching as an encountering Jesus.

**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned non-Scriptural text, then discern a proper Scriptural text that embodies the meaning of the non-Scriptural text and write a homily for it.

**Session 10: November 13, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the nature of the act of preaching

Proclamation of the assigned text of Scripture and preaching the homily followed by a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Nature of the preacher.

**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on the assigned situation

**Session 11: November 20, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss who is the preacher?

Proclamation of a Scriptural text and preach the homily for the assigned situation followed by a critique by the class.

**Lecture:** Liturgy and preaching

**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned Scriptural text for proclamation and write a homily for it.

**Session 12: November 27, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the place of preaching in the liturgy.

Proclamation of the assigned Scriptural text and preaching written for it followed by a critique by the class.

**Lecture:** Spirituality of the preacher

**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned Scriptural text for proclamation and write a homily for it.

**Session 13: December 04, 2018**

**Practicum:** Discuss the ways to develop a preacher's spirituality

Proclamation of the assigned Scriptural text and preaching written for it followed by a critique by the class.

**Lecture:** Mistakes in preaching

**Assignment:** Write a short summary of the course; including, the manner in which you prepare a text of Scripture for preaching, the way in which you develop homily for the text of Scripture and the way in which the course has formed you as a preacher.