

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT)
Syllabus for HM 1073 Foundations of Preaching
Fall 2019, Tuesdays, 8:10 am – 11:00 am, DSPT Chapel (section 1)
Tuesdays, 12:40 pm – 3:30 pm, DSPT Chapel (section 2)

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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)

COURSE OUTLINE: The Course will Have Four Parts (The number in Parenthesis represents the number of Class Weeks that will be dedicated to that portion of the class):

1. Theology and Spirituality of Preaching (2)
2. The Mechanics of Preaching (2)
3. Practice: Preparing the Homily (5)
4. Practice: Preaching the Homily (5)

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 and INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES:

The Expected Outcomes of the DSPT MDiv are as follows:

1. **[communication]** to communicate simply, accurately, and effectively the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church through preaching, teaching, and writing;
2. **[evaluation]** to analyze, assess, and critique theological perspectives and situations through scriptural, historical, systematic, and pastoral theological methods, and to assist others in doing the same;
3. **[application]** to apply Catholic teaching and theology, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas, to pastoral situations, recognizing both the difficulties and the opportunities they present;
4. **[collaboration]** to lead and to work collaboratively with others in a just, charitable, and generous manner, respecting the relevant cultural, social, and ecclesial circumstances, all the while maintaining professional, ethical boundaries;
5. **[Church-uniting]** to foster Church communion, demonstrated through consistent dedication to community life, participation in prayer, and leading others in worship and theological reflection.

As an MDiv course, the goals of this course are in line with those outcomes (the number in parentheses are from the list above). The primary goal of this foundational course is to enable the student to develop

the skills necessary to prepare and deliver, daily, a homily on a text of Scripture (1, 2, 3). 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 (2,3,5). 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 (3,4,5). 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: DSPT MDiv students; other graduate-level students admitted with the Instructor's permission, including 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:** 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. **PRESENTATION:** 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. **PROCLAMATION:** Before every homily, the student will be required to proclaim the text of Scripture upon which it is based. (20% of grade)
4. **PREACHING:** 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. **CRITIQUE:** Every student will be expected to critique the preaching of the other students ... **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:

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:

1. Demonstration of a clear and positive understanding of the elements of preaching.
2. 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.
3. 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 available online, in the GTU library or will be handed 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

Edwards, O.C. Elements of Homiletics, 1990, OSB, Collegeville, MN

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*

Kushner, Malcolm, Public Speaking for Dummies or other similar book on the basic principles of public speaking

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 (2nd 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. Other specific reading assignments may be added as the course progresses.

WEEK 1 – Introduction to Course /Theology and Spirituality of Preaching

Assigned Reading: Second Vatican Council: “*Dei Verbum*” and “*Sacrosanctum Concilium*”

Practicum: Students will prepare a brief summary of the teachings about preaching in these texts and be prepared to discuss them in class

Week 2 – Theology and Spirituality of Preaching

Assigned Reading: Pope Francis, *Evangelium Gaudium*

Week 3 – Mechanics of Preaching – Performance and Public Speaking

Assigned Reading: Rozakis, Laurie E., “*The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Public Speaking (2nd Edition)*”, 1999 or Kushner, Malcolm, “*Public Speaking for Dummies,*” 2004 or similar book on the principles of public speaking.

Practicum: Each student will prepare a joke or humorous anecdote to share with the class. It should be no more than 2 minutes long and the express purpose of the assignment is trying to get the audience to laugh. Reflect on the structure of the joke/story and determine exactly what element of the story makes it humorous. Reflect on the best means for delivering the story/joke to achieve the desired effect.

Week 4 – Mechanics of Preaching – Rhetoric, Admonition and Convincing

Assigned Reading: A Summary of Aristotelian teachings on Rhetorics

Lecture: The Use and Limitations of Apologetic Methodology

Week 5 – The Practice of Preaching – Preparation of the Homily

Assigned Reading: Edwards O.C. *Elements of Homiletics*, Part I,

Pontifical Biblical Commission, “*The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*”, 1994

Practicum: Students will be assigned 3 different sets of Scripture (think a group of Sunday Readings) to begin preparing. They will be lead through a Systematic Process of Preparation of these texts for Preparing a Homily. They will use the same texts from the beginning process through homily preparation to actually delivering the 5 minute homily during the practicum classes in Weeks 10-14

Week 6 – Practice: Resources for Preparation – Scripture and Theology

Assigned Reading: Edwards, O.C. *Elements of Homiletics* Part II and III

Practicum: Continue working with the assigned texts: This week will focus on comparative reading of the texts, words studies in original languages

Lecture: Historical-Critical Method, its use and limitations

Week 7 – Practice: Resources Scripture and Theology, part 2

Assigned Reading: Edwards, O.C. *Elements of Homiletics*, Part IV and V

Lecture: Comparative Reading, Exegesis, Isogesis for Preaching

Week 8 – Practice: Resources for Preaching – Listening to your Congregation

Panel Discussion: a group of laity will be assembled to share their expectations of preachers. Students will listen and participate in discussion with the panel.

Lecture: Incorporating Current Events in Preaching to the Christian Assembly

Practicum: Students will write a 1-2 page reflection of the content of the discussion focusing on how it might help them prepare for preaching.

Week 9 – Practice: Preparing a Homily from a Source other than a Scripture Text

Lecture: Preaching based on sources other than Scripture

Practicum: Each student will be assigned an article from the Catechism, An Article from the Summa, or a Newspaper Article and invited to prepare a homily based on their reading of the text. The first task will be to find Scripture to support their reading of the assigned text and to prepare a homily based on that scripture.

Week 10 – Practice: Preaching

The last weeks of the class will be dedicated entirely to the practice of actually preaching. Students will have been employing preparatory skills over the weeks of the course. In these last weeks they preach the homilies they have prepared. Each student will turn in the text of their homily the week before they are actually scheduled to preach. Each student will preach at least 3 homilies based on scripture and 1 homily based on another source. The other students in the class will critique the preaching of the peers. Lectures during these classes will focus topics that arise during the preaching and critiques.

Week 11 – Practice: Preaching**Week 12 – Practice: Preaching**

Lecture: Preaching without a prepared text

Week 13 – Practice: Preaching

Lecture: Spirituality of the Preacher

Week 14 – Practice: Preaching

Lecture: Pitfalls and limitations

Final Assignment: Each student will prepare a 2-3 page reflection on the spirituality, mechanics, and practice of preaching based on his or her experience in the class.