

Syllabus

Course: PS631-T&TN Expository Preaching I
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026 (Sessions 1 & 2, Aug 17–Dec 09)
In-Class: 6:00—9:00 pm, Tuesdays
Instructor: Dr. Michel Dodds. (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu, (913) 638-3291 (cell)

**About This Class:* This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

**About Disabilities:* Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinate (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

**About Assistance for All Course Assignments:* The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

**About Changes to this Syllabus:* The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.

I. DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory-level course in expository preaching seeking to produce adequate techniques pertaining to pulpit ministry. The student will have ample opportunity to apply the principles of sermon preparation and delivery before the class. Requires the preparation of preaching manuscripts.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved: The student will be able to . . .

1. Articulate the nature and value of expository preaching. (PLO- #4) (A- A, F, & G)
2. Demonstrate primary skills in preparing and delivering expository sermons. (PLO- #2) (A- B, C, E, & D)

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

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3. Sense the high privilege and burden of communicating God's Word clearly, accurately, relevantly, and passionately. (PLO- #1) (A- A, F, & G)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved: The student will be able to . . .

1. Articulate a comprehensive and logical sermon preparation process. (PLO- #1 & 2) (A- A)
2. Employ exegetical study skills to determine the original author's main idea and outline in the text to be preached. (PLO- #1 & 2) (A- B)
3. Demonstrate the ability to form a sermon main idea and outline to accomplish a specific purpose in the preaching of the selected text. (PLO- #1 & 2) (A- C)
4. Preach biblically accurate and culturally relevant expository sermons. (PLO- #1, 2, & 3) (A- D)
5. Increase understanding of effective preaching through the critical evaluation of other preachers preaching. (PLO- #1, 2, 3, & 4) (A- E)
6. Analyze pertinent biblical texts to demonstrate understanding of the varied tasks of effective preaching. (PLO- #1, 2, 3, & 4) (A- F)
7. Articulate a personal philosophy of preaching. (PLO- #1 & 4) (A- G)

III. MATERIALS

A. Required Textbooks:

1. The Gospel of John, NASBU, ESV, or NET.

-The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

2. Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages* (3rd ed). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0801-0491-25, Retail Price: \$22.99

IV. REQUIREMENTS

***Note:** Specific instructions for each assignment are posted in Canvas.

A. Read the course textbook and answer discussion questions.

1. Following the schedule below, read the assigned chapters in the textbook in preparation for in-class discussion.
2. Following the schedule below, answer discussion questions concerning the textbook and course material.

B. Do exegetical study of passages.

1. Select a specific NT book to study for preparing sermons to preach for the course (except for the 5th sermon – specific passages will be assigned):
 - a. Sermons 1–4: a NT Epistle.
 - b. Sermon 5: a Christmas Passage.
2. Submit the results of this study which identifies the following for each passage to be preached:
 - a. Exegetical Idea (the author’s main point).
 - b. Purpose (the reason the author intended for this passage).
 - c. Question (the practical question the author answers in the passage for his intended audience).
 - d. Outline (the way the author structured his material to reveal his idea, accomplish his purpose, and answer the question).

C. Prepare original sermons.

1. Taking the results of your exegetical study for each selected/assigned passage, prepare 5 sermons to accomplish the following purposes:

Sermon #1 – To show basic sermon outline structure.
Sermon #2 – To Explain the truth of the passage.
Sermon #3 – To Convince the audience to believe the truth of the passage.
Sermon #4 – To Apply the truth of the passage to the lives of the audience.
Sermon #5 – Christmas passage: Student choice for the sermon purpose.
2. Taking the results of the exegetical study, prepare the following sermon elements for each selected/assigned passage.
 - a. A sermon Main Idea (the point the sermon is to communicate).
 - b. A Purpose Statement (the result the preacher intends in the lives of the listeners upon hearing the sermon).
 - c. A sermon Question (the practical question the passage answers applicable to the intended audience).
 - d. A sermon Outline (the guide for the speaker’s and listeners thoughts).
 - e. Manuscripts (word-for-word) of each of the following elements for each of the 5 sermons.
 - i. The Introduction.
 - ii. 2 illustrations to be used in the Body of the sermon (not those in the Introduction and Conclusion).
 - iii. The Conclusion.

D. Preach original sermons.

1. Each sermon must be original (i.e., you have never preached this passage / sermon before).
2. Each sermon should be no more than 30 minutes in length.

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3. In-class or live streaming students will preach "live" each evening; students whose schedules do not allow you to preach "live" make video recordings of all sermons and ensure these are available by 3 pm the afternoon before the class session in which it is scheduled to be presented. The course instructor will show these recordings to the in-class session for all to see and critique.

E. Evaluate sermons.

1. During the class, evaluate 3 sermons of seasoned preachers as directed by the course instructor.
2. For the 1st & 5th sermons you preach, complete a "Self-Evaluation" form of your own preaching.

F. Do exegetical study of a passage pertinent to preaching.

1. Study only 1 of the following passages defining significant terms and understanding the author's argument relevant to preaching (i.e. select only 1 of the following passages):
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 OR
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:1-5
2. Write a 5-page paper expository paper presenting the author's meaning and the practical significance of the passage to the preaching task today.

V. METHODS

A. Presentation:

1. **In-class methods:** lecture, discussion, presentation, and evaluation.

***About Class Attendance:** Research consistently demonstrates that class attendance and active participation correlate to higher performance on course assessments. Therefore, the following attendance policies will be followed to encourage greatest course engagement.

***About Classroom Use of Media:**

-**Computing devices** are permitted during the lecture and class discussion sessions for the sole purpose of taking notes. Use of these devices to access the Internet, make telephone calls or video calls, text messaging, updating social network services, etc. is not allowed, let alone very distracting to other students.

-**Cellphones / smartphones** may only be used in an emergency, and in those situations the student may take the call but must leave the room and not return until the next break out of courtesy to fellow classmates.

***About Note Taking:** Students are expected to take notes during each class. Significant peer reviewed studies continue to demonstrate that notes taken by hand are understood better and remembered longer than those taken with a computer. Computer use which is a distraction to

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others (i.e., noise, blocking the screen, displaying non-class related material, etc.) is not allowed.

2. Out-of-class methods: observation, evaluation, and sermon preparation.

***About written assignments:** Unless directed otherwise, all written assignments must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

B. Grading:

***About Late Assignments:** Assignments turned in late will be lowered **5% each class week** it is late.

***About Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

***About course grade:** See the grading scale in the university catalog for specific grading scale that will be used for final course grade.

1. Possible points for each specific assignment:

***Note:** An assignment-specific rubric will be provided for each assignment.

- a. Textbook Discussion Quest. (5 @ 10) . . . = 50
 - b. Exegetical Outlines (5 @ 25 ea). . . = 125
 - c. Sermon Outlines (5 @ 30 ea). . . = 150
 - d. Sermons Preached (5 @ 100 ea). . . = 500
 - e. Sermon Evaluations (5 @ 10 ea) . . . = 50
 - f. Preaching Passage Study (1 @ 100). . . = 100
- Total = 975 points**

VI. ABBREVIATED TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

[Note: A detailed “Class Schedule” is a separate file posted in Canvas.]

Week	Activity	Assignment Due
1	Exegetical Ideas & Outlines	--
2	Exeg Exer/ Ser Ideas	Exeg Study Exercise; Eval #1; DQ #1
3	Ser Purpose & Outlines	Ser #1 Exeg Outline; Eval #2; DQ #2
4	Support Material	Passage Study Paper; DQ #3

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Week	Activity	Assignment Due
5	Verbal/Visual/Non-Verbal	Ser #1 Outline (Draft); DQ #4
6	Preach Sermon #1	Ser #1 Outline
7	Ser #1 Feedback	Eval #3; Eval #4
8	Ser #2 Exegetical	Ser # 2 Exeg Outline
9	Preach Sermons #2	Ser #2 Outline
10	Ser #3 Exeg & Ser Prep	Ser #3 Exeg Outline
11	Preach Sermon #3	Ser #3 Outline
12	Ser #4 Exeg & Ser Prep	Ser #4 Exeg Outline
13	Preach Sermon #4	Ser #4 Outline
14	Ser #5 Exeg & Ser Prep	Ser #5 Exeg Outline
15	Preach Ser #5	Ser #5 Outline
16	Final Assignments	Eval #5; DQ #5