

HOM 625—Foundations in Homiletics

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary
3535 Commerce Rd.
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Fall, 2017 2 Credit Hours Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 pm., CAC 109

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Office hours by appointment
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DESCRIPTION

Beginning preachers learn and practice a *contemplo-studeo-praedico* (I pray, I study, I preach...) model of preparation and preaching for the seasons of the Liturgical Year and the Sacramental Rites of the Church.

AIMS/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To introduce you to the basics of preparing and preaching the liturgical homily, including exegesis and use of liturgical readings, exegesis of the congregation, structure of the homily, and effective delivery.
- To allow you to think critically about your preaching and others' preaching, and to develop your skills as a preacher.
- To allow you to integrate the study of Scripture and Theology with pastoral practice in/through your preaching.
- To allow you to learn rhetorical skills and forms for preaching.
- To help you become more comfortable in the public speaking roles of proclamation and preaching in the liturgical assembly.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and active participation in discussions and exercises, including giving preaching feedback to other class members.
- Completion of reading assignments.
- Preparation and delivery of homilies. A written text and case study form for each Sunday homily is due when the homily is delivered in class. One weekday homily and two Sunday homilies will be assigned.
- Completion of a take-home final examination, demonstrating integration and knowledge of the course material.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available in the Seminary Bookstore)

Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly. Washington DC: NCCB, 1982.*
ISBN: 1555868509

Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2013*. ISBN:
978-1-57455-494-6

Waznak, Robert P. *An Introduction to the Homily.* Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998.
ISBN: 0814625029

*Indicates a Roman Catholic Magisterial document.

OPTIONAL, RECOMMENDED READINGS AND VIDEOS FOR HOMILETICS

(These sources are available for students' use at the reserved shelf in the campus library.)

Books

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987. A good resource for structuring the homily.

Hilkert, Mary Catherine. *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 1997. An excellent theology of preaching.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980. About the "Lowry Loop" structure for the sermon.

Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. Structures for preaching a parable.

Wallace, James A. *Imaginal Preaching: An Archetypal Perspective*. New York: Paulist Press, 1995. How to "preach an image" in the homily.

Videos

Billy Graham: God's Ambassador [DVD] A video biography of Billy Graham. The crusade preaching event we view in class is also found on this DVD.

Great Preacher Series [VHS] Excellent preachers in action, with an interview on their preaching styles:

Burghardt, Walter	Craddock, Fred	Graham, Billy
Long, Thomas G.	Taylor, Barbara Brown	

His Last Words: Sheen [DVD] Archbishop Sheen's only taped liturgical homily, given for Good Friday, which we view in class.

OTHER COURSE CONTENT

Photocopies will be provided to the students for some additionally assigned readings. As time permits, we will view videotapes of homilies given by renowned preachers from the Catholic and Protestant traditions and discuss them.

GRADING

A standard letter grade will be given. One third of the grade is based on participation. One third of the grade is based on the homilies. One third of the grade is based on a take-home final exam reflecting the student's learning in the course.

The following grade scale is published in the Catalog:

Grade Interpretation

Grade	Honor Points	Percent	Interpretation
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior
B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance

C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

An “A” grade homily clearly demonstrates the student’s ability to integrate sound theology, scriptural exegesis, and real-life experience with a particular scripture text in a way that engages the listener. A “B” grade homily is basically well-crafted and delivered, but demonstrates these elements to a lesser degree. A “C” grade (or less) homily does not sufficiently demonstrate these elements.

An “A” grade in participation will be gained by the student that frequently contributes to class discussions, adding meaningful points which further the discussion. A “B” grade in participation will be given to the more reserved student that nonetheless contributes. A “C” grade or less in participation will be given to the student that does not pay attention, or contributes little or never to discussions, or monopolizes discussions in a negative way.

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, “I,” grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the “I” from the instructor before the final class of the course. A *Petition for an “I” Grade* is filed with the Academic Dean’s Office and Registrar’s Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an “I” is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an “F.”

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

All assignments are due in class on the specified date. Absences and late assignments must be excused ahead of time by the instructor. Unexcused late assignments, including homilies, papers, and take-home exams, will be reduced by one letter grade.

Students are welcome to use homily preparation resources to gain ideas for their preaching, and they may certainly borrow ideas, examples and stories from such resources. Please note well that students are **not** permitted to use another’s homily as their own; beyond legitimately borrowed material, each assignment or homily must show the student’s personal thought or input.

FORMAT FOR ASSIGNED PAPERS

Papers/exams may be submitted electronically to the instructor as a MSWord (compatibility mode, 12 pt. text) document (.doc) attached to an Email. Alternatively, a printed copy may be submitted to the instructor’s mailbox. Students should bring two copies of their homily assignments when preaching in class, one to be submitted to the instructor, along with the homily case study form.

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change)

Session 1—August 30

- Syllabus and Introduction to Course and Text Books
- Personal Introductions
- Proclaiming of the Word of God (Lector skills and diction exercises)
- Read Fulfilled in Your Hearing for the next class.*

Session 2—September 6

- Discussion on *FIYH*—What is the homily?
- Continuation of Proclaiming the Word of God

- Read Waznak, chapter 1, “From Sermon to Homily,” for the next class.

Session 3—September 13

The Process of homily preparation—Part One:
Prayer and reflection on the readings.

Biblical Exegesis

Congregational Exegesis

- Read Preaching the Mystery of Faith for the next class.

Session 4—September 20

The Process of homily preparation—Part Two:

Content, Components and Structures

Preaching Biblically

Homily Examples

- Prepare a short weekday homily (2-3 minutes length) for next class. You will deliver it in class.

[NO CLASS on September 27—Instructor Away on Convocation]

- Read Waznak, chapter 2, “The Homilist as Herald, Teacher, Interpreter, and Witness,” for the next class. Continue reading Preaching the Mystery of Faith.

Session 5—October 4

Weekday Homilies Delivery and Feedback

The value of story in preaching

- Read Waznak, chapter 3, “The Lectionary: Richer Fare or Lesser Choice?” for the next class.

Session 6—October 11

Story, continued.

A “theology of preaching”

Making preaching more interesting

- Prepare a Sunday Homily on the assigned Scripture readings (5-9 minutes length) for next class. You will deliver it in class.

Session 7—October 18

1st Sunday Homilies Delivery and Feedback

(Video, if time allows)

Session 8—October 25

Preaching to children

- Prepare your second Sunday homily on the assigned Scripture readings. You will deliver it in class.

[NO CLASS on November 1—All Saints Day]

Session 9—November 8

2nd Sunday Homilies Delivery and Feedback

(Video, if time allows)

- Read Waznak, chapter 4, “Questions Often Asked about the Homily,” for the next class.

Session 10—November 15

Other special cases: funerals, weddings, etc.

[NO CLASS on November 22—Thanksgiving Recess]

Session 11—November 29

“Catch-up Session”
(Video, if time allows)

Session 12—December 6

Final Exams distributed
Course Conclusions, Course Evaluation, Final Comments

Final Exam Due—Wednesday, December 13**COURSE DELIVERY METHODS/DIVERSE LEARNING METHODS**

This course, delivered in the classroom, utilizes a number of learning methods. These include lecture, class discussion, assigned readings, reading homilies aloud during class times, videos of preaching events, preaching of homilies and group feedback, and an open-book take-home exam that will help to synthesize material learned in this course.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

These are taken from the Catalog or the Web site except where indicated.

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments. *To this may be added any requirements of the professor mandating use of the Writing Center,*

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them. *(Should be added to the Catalog)*

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom -The instructor reserves the right to limit or prohibit the use of laptop computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices in the classroom. Students will receive handouts and will only need to take minimal supplemental notes. (Instructor's policy.)

Class Attendance – Seminararians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source" (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a "0" for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student's file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student's mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student's plagiarism and a faculty member of the student's choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as "to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>*intransitive verb*: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> ("cheat." [Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary](http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat). 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May2010 <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, "cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game" (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence, 1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;

- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
 - i. using another person's paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
 - j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.
- (The term "exam" may be substituted with "quiz," "paper," or "presentation" as the case may be.)

NOTICE OF CHANGE

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.

Syllabus revised 2017/08/27