## ALPS-Memphis/Tennessee/Holston

**COS 324 Preaching**

May 16-17 & 30-31, 2025

## Instructor: The Reverend Dr. Robert C. Brown

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Pre-class work must be submitted via email**. (DEADLINE FOR PRE-WORK MAY 5))**

**A Word of Welcome**

Welcome to COS 324. I look forward to meeting you and sharing class together as we seek to grow as preachers of the Gospel! Like You I am a pastor in the United Methodist tradition. My career experience comes from 42 years of leadership in parish ministry. I have been blessed to serve alongside and mentor students from Emory University who are preparing for ministry as well as be in relationship with local pastors in ministry while teaching COS courses. Preaching is a holy calling. Our calling to preach requires the best we have to offer as we are empowered by the Spirit of God to minister through the proclamation of the Word. I pray that God will use the pre-course reading and assignments to breathe new life into your preaching and guide you to new preaching skills even before we meet for the course.

**Student Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of proclamation.
2. Exegete a variety of biblical passages for preaching.
3. Evaluate sermons for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery, and appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons.
4. Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context.

**Required Texts**

Brown Taylor, Barbara. *The Preaching Life*. New York: Cowley. 1993.

ISBN: 978-1-56101-074-5

Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching.* Eds. Lee Sparks & Kathryn Hayes Sparks. St Louis: Chalice, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-827205-3706

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching.* 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.

ISBN: 978-0-664-26142-9

Massey, James Earl. *The Burdensome Joy of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

ISBN: 978-0-687-05069-7

Wilson, Paul Scott, Gen. Ed. *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching.* Nashville: Abingdon, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-687-05556-2

## Pre-Class Assignments: e-mailed by May 5, 2025

1. A 2-3 page Theology of Preaching Paper. Instructions for completing the paper can be found in the syllabus section: **Pre-Class Assignments**. (Student Outcome #1)
2. A2-3 page Sermon Preparation Report prepared in conjunction with a sermon to be preached from Exodus 35:4-5, 20-29 & 36:2-7

Instructions for completing the Sermon Preparation Report can be found in the syllabus section: **Pre-Class Assignments**. Use the sermon preparation report template provided in the Pre-Class Assignments section for creating your preparation report. Copy and paste the Sermon Preparation Report template into a separate document. The template allows you to fill in the appropriate information. You will then save your completed work in the template, and submit it via e-mail as the completed assignment. (Student Outcome #2 & #3)

1. A Sermon Manuscript prepared from the Exodus passages for the Preparation report.Instructions for completing the Sermon Manuscript can be found in the syllabus section: **Pre-Class Assignments**. E-mail a copy of your manuscript as a Word Document. (Student Outcome #3)
2. A Sermon Self- Evaluation will be completed after you have preached the sermon with the congregation you serve. Instructions for completing the Sermon Self-Evaluation can be found in the syllabus section: **Pre-Class Assignments**. Use the template provided for sermon self- evaluation. Copy and paste the Sermon Self-Evaluation template into a separate document. The template allows you to fill in the appropriate information. You will then save your completed work in the template, and submit it via e-mail as the completed assignment. (Student Outcome #3)
3. Title, Focus & Function – IN ADVANCE OF THE SECOND WEEKEND of CLASS you will need to View the “Three Preachers Video” that may be accessed by following this YouTube link - <https://youtu.be/vcgHzkQdkoA>.  This Video link will take you to a YouTube Channel that was made for teaching this class on line for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.  PLEASE WATCH THE VIDEO and Choose ONE of the THREE SERMONS- (The Three Preachers are The Reverend Dr. Alice Rogers, The Reverend Dr. Rodirigo Cruz and The Reverend Dr. Byron Thomas.)  IN Preparation for our Discussion on Sermon Focus and Function on the second Friday session of the class. **THERE IS NO WRITTEN  ASSIGNMENT TO TURN IN, BUT YOU WILL NEED TO BE PREPARED TO SHARE WITH THE CLASS** – What you Think the Title of the Sermon is, The Sermon’s Focus and the Sermon’s Function. (The YouTube Video also has a lecture that you may find helpful for the Second weekend of Class)

**Assignments Submitted During Class**

1. Exegesis of Biblical Passages for Preaching. In the First Class Session, the class will be divided into small groups. Each group will be work together to exegete Matthew 11:25-30. **On the evening of the first Friday session of the First weekend -each small group will be expected to meet for 1 ½ - 2 hours for the purpose of exegeting the assigned passage of Scripture and preparing a group presentation of key findings for the purpose of**

**preaching the tex**t. Details for the completion of this assignment will be presented in class on Saturday. (Student Outcome #2)

1. A Sermon of 12 – 15 minutes will be preached in class on a Matthew 11:25-30. A manuscript will NOT be submitted for this sermon; the grade for the sermon will be based on the oral delivery. **Sermons will be preached in class via ZOOM**. (Student Outcome #3)
2. Evaluation of Others Preaching – Using the Sermon Evaluation form as a guide and rubric for evaluation each student will evaluate and offer constructive feedback for classmates. **THERE IS NO WRITTEN WORK TO BE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. THE GRADE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT IS BASED ON YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CLASS AFTER EACH SERMON IS PREACHED.**
3. Submit a Three Month Preaching Plan for ordering and delivering sermons in your congregational context. You choose the three months for the plan. The Preaching Plan is **due on the Friday of the Second Weekend of the Course. (please email to:** [**rbrown19911993@gmail.com**](mailto:rbrown19911993@gmail.com) **)**. Directions for preparing the Preaching Plan can be found in the syllabus. (Student Outcome #4)

**Grading**

**Pre-Class Assignments e-mailed no later than May 5, 2025**

Theology of Preaching Paper 10 points

Sermon Preparation Report 10 points

Sermon Manuscript 15 points

Sermon Self-Evaluation 10 points

## Assignments due in Class

## Title-Focus-Function 10 points

Group Exegesis Project 5 points 10 - 12 Minute Sermon Preached in Class 20 points

Evaluation of Others Preaching 10 points Three Month Preaching Plan 10 points

## Total Points 100 points

Grade Points Needed Description of letter grades

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 95 – 100 | Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives. |
| A- | 90 – 94 |  |
| B+ | 87 – 89 |  |
| B | 83 – 86 | Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives |
| B- | 80 – 82 |  |
| C+ | 77 – 79 |  |
| C | 73 – 76 | Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives |
| C- | 70 – 72 |  |
| D+ | 67 – 69 |  |
| D | 63 – 66 | Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives |
| D- | 60 – 62 |  |
| F | 0 – 59 | Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives |

# Pre-Class Assignments

**Directions for Pre-Class Assignments**

* + **Theology of Preaching Paper**

Please use the following resources in preparing your Theology of Preaching Paper (2-3 pages). As you read each of these sources, consider how the author’s ideas may help you in articulating your own answers to the questions provided below.

* + - Brown Taylor, Barbara. *The Preaching Life*.

Read the entire book.

* + - Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching.*

Read Chapter 2.

* + - Massey, James Earl. *The Burdensome Joy of Preaching*.

Read the entire book.

* + - Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching.*

Read Introduction – Chapter 4, pp. 1 – 135.

* + - Wilson, Paul Scott, Gen. Ed. *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*

Read the following articles:

“Concerns of the Text and the Sermon” by John M. Rottman, pp. 181 – 2. “Authority of the Preacher” by Charles Rice, pp. 219 – 222.

“Call” by David M. Greenhaw, pp. 223 – 224. “Character” by Andre Resner, pp. 225 – 227. “Ethos” by Andre Resner, pp. 350.

“Authority” by Thomas G. Long, pp. 440 – 444.

“Holy Spirit and Preaching” by Cheryl Bridges Johns, pp. 460 – 464. “Missiology” by Scott M. Gibson, pp. 465 – 468.

“Word of God” by Charles Bartow, pp. 502 – 506

The Theology of Preaching Paper is NOT a report of your reading. Rather these readings have been provided to help you think through and develop your own theology of preaching. As you read these resources ask yourself the following questions:

\*Why do I preach?

\*What do I want to happen as a people hear and receive the sermon?

\*What is the central message about God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that permeates my preaching?

\*What is the central message about human beings that permeates my preaching?

\*How is God active in the preaching event?

\*How does the Holy Spirit work through preaching?

\*What role does the preacher have in facilitating the hearer’s response to the sermon?

\*What Scripture passages inform and shape my understanding and practice of preaching?

In the process of reading the books and articles listed above and thinking through these questions, you will craft an essay in which you present your theology of preaching. Your Theology of Preaching paper should not seek to answer the questions provided above in a question and answer format. The questions are provided to generate thinking and reflection that will then lead you to crafting your own Theology of Preaching essay. Certainly, your essay will engage and interact with these questions, but the format of the essay should reflect the depth of your own thinking and engagement; as a result the development and outline of your essay will be uniquely your own.

The essay should include a formal introduction. The body of the essay will be organized around main ideas or points in which you present your understanding of the preaching event. A formal conclusion will draw the paper together at the end.

As you discuss the main ideas through the body of the paper it is very important that you interact with and cite the sources that have helped you think through and arrive at the essay’s main ideas. While I do not wish for you to include lengthy quotes from the sources you have read, it will be important that you interact with your reading (the use of brief quotations to supplement the discussion is acceptable). Discuss how a source helped shape or clarify your thinking on a particular aspect of the preaching event. As you discuss your convictions about preaching, you may highlight how the authors you read approached preaching in a similar fashion. You may use an author’s idea as a springboard to discussing your conviction with regard to the preaching event. If there are books and authors other than those assigned for this class that have been helpful to you in developing your theology of preaching, please feel free to include and cite those sources in this paper as well. There should be a minimum of 5 citations from the sources read for class. This paper is not the place for you to share your call to preach or your spiritual autobiography. While these personal experiences of grace are important, this assignment is the place to write about your convictions and beliefs about preaching as you interact with the assigned readings and Scripture.

Please cite your sources and include a bibliography at the end of the paper.

Please remember that you must provide a source citation anytime you reference an idea or the work of an author. The citation must be made whether you directly quote an author or use an

author’s thoughts or ideas. It is vitally important that you provide the appropriate in text citations as well as a Bibliography at the conclusion of the paper. Please see the ALPs information on plagiarism. If sources are not used or used and not cited, you will not earn a passing grade.

This paper is not the place to share lengthy biographical information about your call to ministry or personal experiences. Rather this is a paper in which you flesh out your thoughts on the nature of preaching.

## Formatting Directions for Theology of Preaching Paper

1. Double space the paper.
2. Use 1” margins on all sides.
3. Please do not justify the right hand margin.
4. Use 12 point font (Times New Roman or Cambria).
5. Write in complete sentences. Give careful attention to use of grammar and punctuation.
6. Write in a paragraph format with each paragraph indented 1/2”. Each paragraph begins with a central idea or thesis statement. The first sentence of a paragraph is followed by at least

two additional sentences that develop and discuss the idea presented in the first sentence.

1. **Do not use lengthy quotes from either the textbooks or the Bible. You can assume that I have read the textbooks, so when you are discussing ideas from the books, simply name and discuss the concept, giving the reference in parentheses at the end of the sentence.**
2. The writing assignments will be graded for both the depth of insight and reflection as prompted by the questions as well as attention to issues of writing and grammar.

## Grading Rubric for Theology of Preaching Paper Excellent/Outstanding

**Content:** Substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content demonstrating sophisticated ideas and depth of insight in relation to the assignment with attention to interacting with the assigned reading.

**Organization**: Sophisticated arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions.

**Conventions:** Evident control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, sentence formation and citation of sources.

**Good/Notable**

**Content:** Sufficiently developed content with adequate elaboration or explanation in relation to the assignment with attention to interacting with the assigned reading.

**Organization:** Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions.

**Conventions:** Sufficient control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, sentence formation and citation of sources.

**OK/Average**

**Content** Limited content with inadequate elaboration or explanation, lacks specificity in relation to the assignment and interacting with the assigned reading.

**Organization** Confused or inconsistent arrangement of content with or without attempts at transition.

**Conventions** Inconsistent control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, sentence formation and citation of sources.

**Weak/ Below Average**

**Content:** Superficial and/or minimal content in relation to the assignment and interacting with the assigned reading.

**Organization:** Minimal control of content arrangement.

**Conventions**: Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, sentence formation and citation of sources.

**2. Pre-Class Sermon Preparation Report**

For the first sermon, your sermon text will be Exodus 35:4-5, 20-29 & 36:2-7.

However, it is appropriate to reference other texts within the sermon as far as those additional texts support the sermon’s Focus and Function. For more support on preaching from the lectionary and for use of “supporting texts”, please read “Lectionary and the Christian Year” by Laurence Hull Stookey from *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*, pp. 321 – 325.

**The Pre-Class Sermon Preparation Report**

The Sermon Preparation Report template posted below (highlighted in yellow) will walk you through the steps of preparing a sermon as discussed in *The Witness of Preaching*. While you will not complete a formal “Preparation Report” each week in the normal process of preaching, for this class the report is designed to slow down the sermon preparation process and help you walk through the steps of sermon preparation in a deliberate, thoughtful and reflective manner.

In preparation for completing the Sermon Preparation Report, please read the following:

* Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching.*

Read Chapters 4 - 5, pp. 113 - 170.

* Wilson, Paul Scott, Gen. Ed. *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*

Read the following articles:

“Choosing and Delimiting the Text” by Stephen Farris, pp. 1 – 3. “Exegesis” by Thomas G. Long, pp. 17 – 24.

“Form Criticism” by Ronald J. Allen, pp. 24 – 28. “Hermeneutics” by Stephen Farris, pp. 31 – 36. “Literal Sense” by Henry J. Langknecht, pp. 49 – 51.

“Literary Criticism” by Patricia Dutcher-Walls. pp. 51 – 53.

Read the article/s in “Part 2” pp. 65 – 114 that correspond with the Scripture text you have chosen for the first sermon.

“Lectionary and the Christian Year” by Laurence Hull Stookey, pp. 321-5.

## Sermon Preparation Report Template

\*Copy this yellow highlighted section and paste it into a new document to serve as a template for your report. Fill in each section after the **bold highlighting**. Please to NOT change the template, simply fill in your response using complete sentences and paragraphs. The template will expand as you type in your responses. Save the report as a .doc or .docx file. You can retain the yellow highlighting for the template, **but delete the highlighting in the sections where you type in your own responses (so that I can see the difference between the template highlighted section/s and your responses).**

Responses should be given in complete sentences with attention to a proper use of grammar.

## Your Name:

1. **Scripture Text:**

**Sermon Focus:** *A description of the sermon Focus can be found in The Witness of Preaching.*

**Sermon Function:** *A description of the sermon Focus can be found in The Witness of*

*Preaching.*

## Sermon Title:

1. **Congregational Description** The sermon should be prepared for the main worship service of your congregational context or a setting in which you frequently preach.

## Location of church: regionally & locally

* 1. **Age of the church: when was it established and important aspects of its history**
  2. **Demographic composition of the congregation** (number of worshipers, age,

education, income, etc.)

## Theological commitments and preferences – name and discuss the values, beliefs,

**ministries that define the congregation**

* 1. **Predominant Style of Worship – describe what worship looks like**
  2. **Other dynamics that inform the preaching context** (challenges faced by the

church and/or community, recent events that impact the life of the congregation, etc.)

1. **Your Observations of the Text**. In this section you will not simply cut and paste information from the scripture passage. Follow the directions and *discuss* each question being asked. In this section, you are writing out your detailed observations of the text as you study the text for your initial preparation to preach. Write your responses to each question in complete sentences and in a paragraph format.

**a. What is God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) doing or saying in this passage? Discuss/describe how you have come to this conclusion by observing the text.**

## What are God’s words or actions communicating about the nature and character of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)? Discuss/describe how you have come to this conclusion by observing the text.

1. **How are the people in the passage interacting with or responding to God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)? Discuss/describe how you have come to this conclusion by observing the text.**
2. **What does the people’s interaction or response tell you about them?**

**Discuss/describe how you have come to this conclusion by observing the text.**

1. **. Insights from Biblical Scholars** After you have documented your observations of the text in #4, you will consult at least two scholarly commentaries to check your observations and conclusions. If you do not have commentaries in your library, please plan ahead to borrow them from ministry colleagues. If you use internet sources, choose scholarly sources rather than devotional sources or works primarily from preachers.

**Discuss how your reading of the commentators supported, extended, or challenged the key insights named in #5**. **Discuss how the commentators**

**addressed the insights you documented in 4 a, 4 b, 4 c and 4 d.** If your conclusions were challenged how did you resolve the tension or come to greater clarity? Was resolving this

issue critical to understanding the central message of the passage? The questions here are prompting you to engage in a thorough and thoughtful discussion.

Please cite your sources and include in the *Works Cited* at the end of this document.

## . Discuss any additional insights or discoveries you gleaned from your

**engagement with the commentaries and other sources that directly relate to your sermon’ s focus and function. Why are these insights are important to your**

**sermon?**

Please cite your sources and include in the *Works Cited* at the end of this document.

1. **Considering the biblical and theological implications of the passage as it relates to your sermon’s *Focus* and *Function*, what of this passage runs counter to the cultural assumptions and values embedded in the context within which you will preach this sermon. What might the congregation find it hard to hear? Why?** Respond in terms of the immediate cultural ethos of the congregation and societal values within which the congregation lives and witnesses.

## . Considering the biblical and theological implications of the passage as it

**relates to your sermon’ s *Focus* and *Function*, what of this passage is congruent with the cultural assumptions and values embedded in the context within which you will preach this sermon. What will resonate with the congregation? Why?** Respond in terms of the immediate cultural ethos of the congregation and societal values within which the congregation lives and witnesses.

## . Discuss what you found difficult or challenging in the sermon preparation process?

1. **Discuss what you found enjoyable or rewarding in the sermon preparation process?**

**Works Cited** (using MLA)

## Pre-Class Sermon Manuscript

In preparation for writing the sermon manuscript you will submit prior to class and for which you have prepared the sermon preparation report, please read the following resources:

* + Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching.*

Read Chapters 3 – 18.

* + Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching.*

Read Chapter 6 – 11.

* + Wilson, Paul Scott, Gen. Ed. *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*

Read the following articles:

“Plagiarism” by Richard Stern, pp. 128 – 129.

“Preaching, Ethics of” by Charles L. Campbell, pp. 131 – 133. “Self-Disclosure” by G. Lee Ramsey Jr., pp. 133 – 135. “Application” by Paul E. Koptak, pp. 176 – 177.

“Illustrations and Stories” by Michael Duduit, pp. 189 – 191. “Metaphor and Figures of Speech” by Linda Lee Clader, pp. 193 – 8. “Moves” by Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, pp. 199 – 200.

“Narrative Preaching” by Eugene Lowry, pp. 201 – 202.

“Introduction: Seeking to be Heard” by Ronald J. Allen, pp. 369 – 371. “Conclusions” by Jerry Carter, pp. 372.

“Deductive” by Dave L. Bland, pp. 375 – 377. “Exegetical” by David A Davis, pp. 380 – 381. “Expository” by Joel C. Gregory, pp. 381 – 383. “Inductive” by Michael A. Brothers, pp. 390 – 392. “Introductions” by Henry J. Langknecht, pp. 392 – 394. “Manuscript” by Clayton J. Schmidt, pp. 394 – 395. “Point Form” by Scott M. Gibson, pp. 401 – 404.

After completing the reading, you will write a sermon to be submitted in manuscript form by August 6. Your sermon text will be Exodus 35:4-5, 20-29 & 36:2-7. However, it is appropriate to reference other texts within the sermon as far as those additional texts support the sermon’s Focus and Function.

## The Sermon Manuscript Assignment.

\*At the top of the sermon manuscript, please include: Your Name

Sermon Title

Sermon Text -Exodus 35:4-5, 20-29 & 36:2-7.

Sermon Focus (see Long pp. 113 - 135 for writing Focus Statements)

Sermon Function (see Long pp. 113 - 135 for writing Function Statements)

\*The sermon manuscript should be double-spaced. Write the manuscript using complete sentences, but in a conversational tone (this is not an academic lecture); use the language you would use if you were delivering the sermon aloud to the congregation. If you are not in the habit of writing out a manuscript, doing so may be a challenge. However, it will help you grow as a preacher and help me see how you craft your sermons.

\*At the end of the manuscript:

Describe the sermon “form” you chose to use for this sermon.

Discuss why you chose “form” and why you thought it was the best approach for conveying the sermon’s Focus and supporting the sermon’s Function.

Discuss the ways in which this sermon’s form was similar to your usual or typical

approach to preaching.

Discuss if you incorporated any new elements in the sermon’s form. How did you decide on these new elements? If your decision to try something new was related to the reading, please identify which book or article was important to your decision.

## Sermon Self-Evaluation

For the sermon assignment you will not only write the sermon manuscript for this class, but you will also preach the sermon in your ministry context. I encourage you to video record your sermon (perhaps you or someone in the congregation has a phone or ipad that would easily allow you to record) and watch it in preparation for completing the Sermon Self-Evaluation form. You will complete the sermon self-evaluation form after you have preached the sermon and have had time to, hopefully view a video recording of the sermon, and reflect on the sermon after you were done preaching it.

**(YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEND ME A COPY OF THE VIDEO)**

After preaching the sermon in your ministry context, you will complete the Sermon Self- Evaluation Form found below. Again, the template is in a yellow template format. You will copy the yellow template into a new document and add your comments in a section that is NOT highlighted in yellow.

The Sermon Self-Evaluation Form asks you provide a grade for yourself in four separate categories:

1. Biblical Content
2. Organization & Structure of the Sermon
3. Word Choice & Use of Pathos
4. Non Verbal Communication/Performance

Using the grading rubric you will score yourself in each of the four categories.

**5.0** = Exceptional

**4.5** = Very Good

**4.0** = Good

**3.5** = Acceptable

**3.0** = Marginal

**2.5** = Unacceptable

After you have scored yourself in each of the four categories, you will engage in a thorough, written discussion of what you think you did well in each category and where you would want to improve. Respond in full sentences to each of the highlighted sections. As you discuss areas of strength and areas for improvement you will seek to be specific and detailed in your discussion.

Please copy and paste the Self-Evaluation Template into a new document.

## Sermon Evaluation Template

**Delete the highlighting in the sections where you type in your own responses (so that I can see the difference between the template highlighted section/s and your responses).**

**Preacher’s Name:**

**Scripture Text:**

**Sermon Title:**

**Sermon Focus:**

**Sermon Function:**

**Grading Rubric:**

**5.0 = Exceptional**

**4.5 = Very Good**

**4.0 = Good**

**3.5 = Acceptable**

**3.0 = Marginal**

**2.5 = Unacceptable**

***Please record and provide rationale for the sermon’s strengths and areas for improvement. Provide support for your “score” in each section by explaining why you have graded yourself as you have. You are encouraged draw from class content and course reading to reflect on sermon content. The template will expand as you type your answers, please be thorough as you discuss both the strengths of your sermon and areas for improvement.***

*=======================================================*

## Biblical Content Score:

**\*Discuss how the sermon communicates a clear and faithful understanding of the text. Where there any points at which stronger communication would have been helpful?**

**\*Discuss how the sermon communicates the central convictions of the Christian faith. Were there any points of ambiguity?**

**\*The application is faithful to the biblical and theological message of the text. Why do you think so? What might have made the application stronger?**

1. **Organization/Structure Score:**

**\*Introduction: Was a purposeful invitation into the sermon that immediately engaged the listener. Why do you think so? Could any changes or adjustments make the intro stronger?**

**\*Development: Recognizable and meaningful progression of thought with clear transitions. Why do you think so? Could any changes or adjustments make the development stronger and easier to follow?**

**\*Conclusion: Clear, Decisive ending in support of the Sermon’s Function (no new information is introduced). Could any changes or adjustments make the conclusion stronger?**

* **Sermon Title builds interest, reflects the focus of the sermon and is used effectively in the body of the sermon. Why do you think so?**

1. **Word Choice and Pathos Score:**

**Purposeful, Clear, Rich use of language that engages the imagination and evokes**

**emotion.**

**Give examples of engaging use of language, word choice, metaphor or illustrations.**

1. **Non Verbal Communication Score:**

* **Eye Contact is natural, sincere, and sustained.**
* **Physical Presentation of facial expressiveness, gestures, movement and physical stance support communication. Are there any elements of nonverbal communication that are potentially distracting?**

**\*Voice is conversational in tone (variety in volume, emphasis and pace); verbal fillers are minimal. Are there any elements of the use of voice that are potentially distracting?**

**\*Attire is appropriate to the worship setting, communicates respect of congregation and God; does not draw undue attention to the preacher.**

Assignments Due During Class

**Directions for Assignments due during Class**

* 1. **Exegesis of Biblical Passages for Preaching**

In the First Class Session, the class will be divided into small groups. Each group will be work together to exegete Matthew 11:25-30. **On the evening of the first Friday session of the First weekend -each small group will be expected to meet for 1 ½ - 2 hours for the purpose of exegeting the assigned passage of Scripture and preparing a group presentation of key findings for the purpose of preaching the tex**t. Details for the completion of this assignment will be presented in class on Saturday. (Student Outcome #2)

* 1. **In Class Sermon**

A 12 - 15 minute sermon will be prepared for your ministry context and preached in class based on Matthew 11:25-30.

A manuscript will NOT be submitted for this sermon (however you are encouraged to write one); the grade for the sermon will be based on the oral delivery. You will be graded using the same sermon evaluation form that you used for your Self-Evaluation of the pre-class sermon.

I strongly encourage you to begin to prepare the sermon before you attend the on-line sessions for the class. Then, based on the lectures you will have time to adjust your sermon in preparation for preaching in class.

Sermons will be preached on the Saturday of the second weekend session.

## Preaching Plan

Please read the following resources as you prepare your Preaching Plan. As you read each of these sources, consider how the author’s ideas may help your sermon planning practices.

* + - Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching.*

Read Chapter 17, pp. 169-177.

* + - Wilson, Paul Scott, Gen. Ed. *The New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*

Read the following articles:

“Lectio Continua” by Ronald J. Allen, pp. 318 – 319.

“Lectionary and the Christian Year” by Laurence Hull Stookey, pp. 321-5 “Sermon Series” by Michael Duduit, pp. 416 – 418.

“Shaping Congregational Identity” by Edwin Searcy, pp. 418 – 419.

For this assignment you will prepare a Three Month Preaching Plan. For each Sunday you will indicate your preaching text and the Title of your Sermon.

I strongly encourage you to take the time to prepare the 3 month Preaching Plan prior to the second weekend of the class.