

Syllabus for  
**PRM 669—Practice Preaching**  
2.0 Credit Hours  
Fall 1999

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practice Preaching is designed to provide the student opportunity to prepare, preach, review his/her sermon on TV, profit by the criticism of the class, and develop meaningful criteria by which to evaluate preaching.

- A. A course in which students prepare 12 outlines and 6 manuscripts on assigned texts and preach 4 times before the class and video cameras. Evaluations are made by the class, professor, video replay, and personal study of tapes.
- B. Class members and the professor will evaluate each preaching event. Although this course is designed for preachers, etc., skills developed in preparation and practice are essential to every student who feels called of God to communicate the Good News. Each student is evaluated individually in terms of ability, effort, experience, class participation, and growth. Students are urged to bring their spouses to hear them preach, to find their personal style, and to equip themselves to preach effectively to the congregations of their calling.

II. COURSE GOALS

The place of prayer and the guidance and the anointing of the Holy Spirit are considered fundamental requirements for effective preaching. Our basic concern is to enable the student to grow in confidence and competence. To do this we provide the opportunities and settings wherein each student can profit from the evaluations of his/her sermon by peers, spouse, professor, self. From these experiences each student will have the benefit of multifaceted critiques by which he or she may correct errors and habits in sermon preparation and delivery. It is expected that each student will enjoy measurable improvement in his/her sermon preparation and delivery through participation in this class. Such strengths as self-confidence and enthusiasms for preaching should also be increase, so the student will be further inspired to be a faithful preacher of the Word. Students will improve their abilities to communicate by preaching without notes. Students who do not intend to follow the preaching ministry will, nevertheless, improve their skills in communication and develop more poise and self-confidence.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through the lectures, readings, writing of sermons, use of video replay, class and personal critiques, and feedback by a local congregation, the student should be able to do the following:

- A. demonstrate the ability to select a text and utilize the hermeneutical and exegetical skills necessary to evolve biblical truth into a homily.
- B. demonstrate a knowledge of creating seminal and skeletal outlines.
- C. utilize such organizing principles as the message in one sentence, the doctrine inherent in the text, and the response the text calls for.
- D. apply the basic principles of good composition to the writing of a sermon.
- E. write to be heard, rather than to be read. (oral vs. written style)

- F. use voice and body effectively in the delivery of the sermon.
- G. preach without notes by internalizing the sermon.
- H. demonstrate the equal values of a well-prepared sermon and well-prepared person.
- I. demonstrate the ability to critique sermons, other's and one's own.
- J. show a basic commitment to the struggle and discipline required to be a faithful and effective communicator of the Word.
- K. preach with conviction and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- L. experience God as preparation for preaching.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required Supplemental Reading\*\*
  - 1. Stott, John R.W. Between Two Worlds. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
  - 2. \*\*Lowry, Eugene. The Homiletical Plot. Atlanta: Knox, 1980.
  - 3. \*\*Lowry, Eugene. How to Preach a Parable. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
  - 4. \*Tozer, A.W. The Knowledge of the Holy. San Francisco: Harpers, 1992.
  - 5. \*Tozer, A.W. The Pursuit of God. Camp Hill: Christian Publications, 1995.
- B. Recommended
  - 1. Achtemeier, Elizabeth. Creative Preaching: Finding the Words.
  - 2. Aycock, Don M. Preaching with Purpose and Power.
  - 3. Barclay, William. The Master's Men. Abingdon.
  - 4. Bishop, John. A Word in Season. Abingdon.
  - 5. Blackwood, Andrew. Biographical Preaching for Today.
  - 6. Bohren, Rudolph. Preaching and Community. John Knox.
  - 7. Burke, John. Gospel Power.
  - 8. Buttrick, David. Homiletic.
  - 9. Buttrick, George. The Parables of Jesus. Doubleday.
  - 10. Chartier, Myron R. Preaching as Communication.
  - 11. Cox, James W. A Guide to Biblical Preaching.
  - 12. Craddock, Fred B. As One Without Authority. Phillips U. Press.
  - 13. Craddock, Fred B. Overhearing the Gospel. Abingdon
  - 14. Craddock, Fred B. Preaching. Abingdon
  - 15. Cundiff, Webb. Story Telling for You. Antioch.
  - 16. Davis, H. Grady. Design for Preaching.
  - 17. Demaray, Donald E. An Introduction to Homiletics.
  - 18. Duffield, J. and Guy F. Pentecostal Preaching.
  - 19. Forsyth, P.T. Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind.
  - 20. Gonzalez and Gonzalex. Creative Preaching and Oral Writing.
  - 21. Hoefler, Richard Carl. Creative Preaching and Oral Writing.
  - 22. Jones, G. Curtis. 1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching. Broadman, Nashville.
  - 23. Jowett, J.H. The Preacher: His Life and Work
  - 24. Kemper, Deane. Effective Preaching, Westminster.
  - 25. Kennedy, Gerald. His Word Through Preaching.
  - 26. Killinger, John. Fundamentals of Preaching.
  - 27. Kinlow, Dennis F. Preaching in the Spirit.
  - 28. Lacour, Lawrence. "Principles of Evangelistic Preaching."

29. Lowry, Eugene L. Doing Time in the Pulpit, Abingdon.
30. Lowry, Eugene L. How to Preach a Parable, John Knox.
31. Martin, O. Dean. What Do You Do After the Sermon?
32. McTevis & Wells. Karl Barth Preaching through the Christian Year.
33. Middlebrook, Sam F. Pentecostal Preaching.
34. Mitchell, Henry H. The Recovery of Preaching (Black Preaching).
35. Monroe, Alan. Principles of Types of Speech
36. Quale, Wm. The Pastor Preacher.
37. Robinson, James H. Adventurous Preaching (Black Preaching).
38. Sangster, W.E. The Craft of Sermon Construction
39. Saret, Lew and William Foster. Basic Principles of Speech.
40. Scherer, Paul. The Word of God Sent, Baker.
41. Stevens and Diehl. Reaching People from the Pulpit.
42. Stewart, James E. Heralds of God.
43. Sweazey, George. Preaching the Good News.
44. Willimon, William. Preaching and Worship in the Small Church.
45. Worley, Robert. Preaching and Teaching in the Earliest Church.

C. Sermons by selected preachers (A class handout provides names.)

D. Magazines

1. Catholic Digest
2. Christian Century
3. Christian Leadership
4. Christianity Today
5. Circuit Rider
6. Christian Ministry
7. Decision
8. Homiletic and Pastoral Review
9. Liturgy
10. Pulpit Digest
11. Sermon Builder
12. Worship

## V. COURSE PROCEDURES

A. Course Prerequisites

1. Enrollment in PRM 669 presupposes satisfactory completion of "Homiletics and Worship."
2. Exceptions are made for students with preaching experience, upon consultation with the instructor.
3. Enrollment is limited to twelve students in order to assure personal attention for each student and adequate opportunities to preach.

B. Evaluation Procedures

Each student will be graded on the basis of the following:

1. six outlines, according to a form which will be provided. (This will include an introduction, conclusion and invitation.)
2. three sermons, fully written; each should extend through at least five typewritten pages (double-spaced).
3. outlines and sermons are expected on schedule. One grade letter will be deducted for late presentations.
4. presentation of three sermons in class.

5. participation in evaluation process of class sessions.
  6. familiarity with The Homiletical Plot by Eugene Lowry.
  7. take a final exam on the above, plus spiritual formation.
- C. University Policies
1. "Consistent with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ORU ensures that no 'qualified individual' will be denied reasonable accommodation in the form of modifications of policies, practices, and/or procedures." Students with disabilities who wish to access services should contact their professor(s) and the Office of Disability Services at Ext. 7355 to initiate the process.
  2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
  3. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
- D. Other Information—Refer to the Graduate School of Theology and Missions Student Handbook for additional policies and procedures.

## VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
- B. Double cuts are given for absences immediately preceding or following holidays and/or breaks.
- C. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
- D. The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is stated in each syllabus and is as follows for the three-semester-hour class:
  1. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.
  2. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 8 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.
  3. If the class meets once a week, the missing of 3 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 6 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.
- E. The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies, illnesses, etc., and are not designed for indiscriminate use. Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in these allowable absences in each course. Only those absences documented with an administrative excuse will be exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University's administration.
- F. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. Two tardies will equal one absence.

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

### A. Lectures

1. The Homiletical Plot
2. How to Prepare a Sermon (scratch/itch)
3. Using the Bible in Preaching
4. Outlining and Finding Materials
5. Resources for Sermons, Especially Illustrations
6. Adapting the Message to the Congregation
7. Mastering Stage Fright and Preaching with Few Notes

### B. Special Assignments in Development and Delivery of Sermons

1. A Sermon on the Love of God (Sermon I)  
Student Presentation of Sermon I
2. A Sermon on the Life of Jesus (Sermon II)  
Student Presentation of Sermon II
3. A Sermon on Discipleship (Sermon III)  
Student Presentations of Sermon III
4. A Sermon on Bible Study (Sermon IV)  
Student Presentation of Sermon IV
5. A Sermon on Prayer (Sermon V)  
Student Presentation of Sermon V
6. A Sermon on a Controversial Social Issue (Sermon VI)  
Student Presentation of Sermon VI
7. A Sermon on Conversion (Sermon VII)  
Student Presentation of Sermon VII
8. A Sermon on the Infilling of the Holy Spirit (Sermon VIII)  
Student Presentation of Sermon VIII
9. A Sermon on Disciplined Christian Living (Sermon IX)  
Student Presentation of Sermon IX
10. A Sermon on Christian Assurance (Sermon X)  
Student Presentation of Sermon X
11. A Sermon Based on One of Jesus' Parables (Sermon XI)  
Student Presentation of Sermon XI
12. A Sermon on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church (Sermon XII)  
Student Presentation of Sermon XII

Review

Final Exam

## VIII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

### ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

PRM 669  
Course #

Practice Preaching  
Title of Course

Dr. Leaming  
Instructor

#### MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.

#### GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

#### MAJOR OUTCOMES

**Spiritual formation/leadership:**

Demonstrates Spirit-filled, biblically-theologically competent and historically informed church leadership.

**Critical thinking/analysis/ problem solving:**

Understands and applies biblical/theological principles in the practice of ministry.

**Communication/social interaction/global perspective:**

Demonstrates the ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural texts.

**Value/ethics/decision-making:**

Integrates Judeo-Christian values and ethics in personal life and ministry.

#### COURSE OUTCOMES

Understand/experience the preaching event; experience the steps of good oral communication; develop a personal preaching style; learn to preach for a verdict; gaining, sustaining attention orally; understanding the preaching as "plot".

#### ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OUTCOMES

**Stimuli:**

Study the basics of great communication; write 12 outlines; preach 4 messages; share the evaluation of messages preached; observe videos of the preaching events.

**Criteria:**

Messages preached	60%
Manuscripts	15%
Outlines	15%
Class participation	10%