

Syllabus for
CHRM 340— Sermon Preparation and Preaching
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Anders Gerdmar, ThD, Associate Professor

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the fundamentals of preaching. Gives attention to the biblical perspectives of preaching and the principles of sermon construction, as well as to the delivery of the sermon.

Prerequisites:

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Learn to read Scripture and creative interpretative presentations in a public setting.
- B. Learn the fundamentals of preaching.
- C. Become aware of the biblical perspectives of preaching, the principles of sermon construction, and how to deliver a sermon.
- D. Study the construction and communication of the basic biblical expository sermon, as well as other sermonic types.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Carry through a solid textual preparation of sermons observing fundamental hermeneutical and homiletic strategies.
- B. Demonstrate the ability to make an oral interpretation and coherent presentation of biblical, theological, and historical information in the form of preaching.
- C. Demonstrate the ability to analyze the sermonic structure and delivery of various preachers.
- D. Demonstrate the ability to properly employ the principles of hermeneutics in conducting Bible studies as a foundation for textual, topical, and expository sermons by methods.
- E. Demonstrate the principles of sermon construction pertaining to the basic biblical sermon.
- F. Demonstrate the ability to make the biblical message relevant and applicable to life in preaching event.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks:

Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001. ISBN 978-0687090884.

Gerdmar, Anders. *The Living Word. The Theology and Craft of Preaching*. Uppsala 2009
(Scandinavian School of Theology)

Lindberg, Klas. *Konsten att tala så folk vill lyssna. Praktisk retorikhandledning*. Skellefteå: Artos & Norma, 2010 (for Scandinavian speakers)

or

McDill, Wayne. *The 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

V. COURSE PROCEDURES

A. Course Prerequisites: none

B. Evaluation Procedures:

1. Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = below 60

2. Assignments

(1) Final test

25%

(2) Three sermon manuscripts w/Outline

30%

(3) Preaching + discussion in class

15%

(4) Term Paper

25%

(5) Five evaluations of sermons

5%

TOTAL 100%

C. Description of the assignments:

Before the course, the students will listen to a series of online lectures on sermon preparation. The sermons (points 2–3 below) should be produced following the standards and guidelines given in these lectures. *These are due the first day of the course.*

1. Final test. The test will include the literature and online lectures and will be given as a take-home exam. Due as agreed.
2. Three sermon manuscripts w/Outline. Each student writes three complete sermons, which could be held as they are written. These are of three kinds:
 - a. Textual sermon, built on one Bible text of the student's choice.
 - b. Topical or expository sermon on a topic of the students choice.
 - c. 'Crisis Sermon'. Scenario: a teenager in a family in the church has been killed in a car accident on the Saturday night, which you were told late Saturday night. You are preaching in the Sunday morning meeting and are forced to preach, touching on this situation. What do you preach?
3. Preaching in class during the course. Each student will preach class during the course, and the students will evaluate the preaching. The sermon should be the Textual Sermon prepared by. Each student and the teacher are presented with a written outline. The message should be 15 minutes – write the sermon and clock it before the class. The teacher and fellow students will evaluate theological content and communication.
4. Term Paper: "Preparation and Preaching. My strategy for preparation and performance of preaching." The paper must interact with the text books and result in a mature and well-grounded presentation of the student's purposes for the life as a preacher. 8 pages, written according to the standards presented at www.loteol.se >Student Affairs > Term Papers > How To Write Term Paper? > Formalities of Term Paper. The paper is due April 15.
5. Five evaluations of sermons, which are due April 15, 2012. Each student attends five sermons, preferably in different churches. At least three of the five sermons must be outside the students' own tradition (Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Orthodox etc.). Each student fills in an Evaluation Form provided by the teacher, one form for each of the five messages.

D. Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Scandinavian School of Theology. Absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students and faculty at Scandinavian School of Theology must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
3. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

VI. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

D. Evaluation Policies

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments for each Week or Unit are due on the week established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment.
 - b. No work is accepted after the final exam date.
2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the school.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**

- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the Dean. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied.**
 - d. **All exams will be given as scheduled.** It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the school.
4. Attendance
- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the SCANDINAVIAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY is as follows for a three credit course: the missing of 6 class sessions (two weeks) will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions (four weeks) will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
 - c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

E. Academic Honesty

1. By signing the Honor Code, the student has pledged, "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments."
2. The Catalog and Student Handbook reiterate that "no Christian intellectual community can maintain its integrity or be faithful to its members if violations of its central purpose are tolerated for any reason. This principle of intellectual responsibility applies to all work done by students."
3. Cheating and plagiarism attack the basis for academic accreditation and Judeo-Christian civilization. They are violations of God's moral codes. Plagiarism is literary or artistic theft and misrepresentation. It is not only a moral wrong, but it is illegal. For a full description of plagiarism, see Alexander Lindley, Plagiarism and Originality, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1952.
4. No collaboration among students on assignments will be allowed without prior written approval from the professor. The Catalog specifies that "each student will do his or her own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with

other students on assignments. A student violating this principle of intellectual responsibility will receive an F grade in the course involved and face disciplinary action including possible suspension from Scandinavian School of Theology."

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

To be handed out in class.