INTRODUCTION TO HOMILETICS
Houghton College | Equipping for Ministry | Houghton.edu
OFFICE OF MINISTRY RESOURCES

Monday-Wednesday, October 21-23, 2019

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COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To help the student develop a foundational understanding of preaching as vital to the life of the local church.
2. To assist the student in understanding basic and essential homiletical steps in the preparation and delivery of biblical and relevant sermons for a contemporary audience.
3. To challenge the student to create an atmosphere for preaching that is rooted in the Holy Spirit speaking through the open heart of the preacher.
4. To present the student with an opportunity to preach one sermon based on the skills and ideas discussed and learned in the class.

CLASS SCHEDULE
Monday, October 21 - 8am to Noon, 1pm to 5pm (with breaks)
Tuesday, October 22 - 8am to Noon, 1pm to 5pm (with breaks)
Wednesday, October 23 - Wednesday, 8am to Noon (with breaks)

CLASS LOCATION
This is a hybrid class, with some students attending in person at Houghton College (Houghton, NY) and some students attending online via zoom.
In-person class Location will be sent out by October 1, 2019.
Online link to join the class will be sent out by October 1, 2019.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to Homiletics is intended to help students develop an appreciation for the purpose and value of preaching as vital to the life of the local church. Since preaching is the intersection of human endeavor and divine anointing, the course will address: 1) the need for the preacher to develop lifelong skills in exegesis of the scriptures as the foundation for every sermon; 2) the importance of the preacher to create sermons in which the scriptures are applied to the lives of listeners in a way that is relevant, inspirational, clear and effective; 3) the need to create an atmosphere in which the preacher is open to the Holy Spirit in order to proclaim the Word of God.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Attend all classes and participate in class discussion.
2. Read the required texts and complete required assignments prior to the first class session.
3. Complete daily class assignments.
4. Prepare, preach, video and evaluate, within one month of the class’s conclusion, a sermon in your local ministry setting using the strategies discussed in class. Complete a personal evaluation of your sermon after watching a video recording of the sermon.

REQUIRED TEXTS


GRADING
25% — Completion of reading assignments.
25% — Class participation.
50% — Post-class sermon (20-30 minutes).
PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE (All due prior to the first class session)

1. Read *Biblical Preaching* and complete the following assignments.
   a. Work through the exercises at the back of the book.
   b. Think about the concepts in each chapter. The class discussion and homiletical steps are designed to build on the information in this book.

2. Read *Preaching in the Spirit* and *Preaching Essentials*. Write a 1-page observation paper on each book. Describe thoughts and ideas from the books that catch your attention. Provide a brief description of why these ideas are important to you. These papers are due at the beginning of the first class session.

3. Choose a biblical passage from which you desire to preach.
   a. The passage should be a text from which you have never preached a sermon.
   b. The passage should be a literary unit of a biblical text (parable, brief narrative, short section of an epistle, or short Psalm).
   c. During the class, we will discuss your preparation of this text. You will preach your post-class sermon from this text.

POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENT (Due by November 23, 2019)

1. Prepare, preach, video and evaluate, within one month of the class’s conclusion, a sermon in your local ministry setting using the strategies discussed in class. Complete a personal evaluation of your sermon after watching a video recording of the sermon.
Policies & Requirements

Attendance
Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% (16 hours) of the minimum required seat time (20 hours) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 20% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during the class or after the absence has already occurred.

Grading Scale
100-97 A
96-94 A-
93-91 B+
90-88 B
87-85 B-
84-81 C+
80-76 C
75-71 C-
70-68 D
67 or below F

Students must get a “C” or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.

Books
Required Textbooks
Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them.


Due Date
All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 4 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 2 weeks after
the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date will result in an automatic “0” for the assignment.

Extensions
Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for sickness, serious injury, or death in the student’s immediate family or for similar extenuating circumstances. When in doubt, please contact the professor. Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key! Professors may reduce a student’s grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

Papers
All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1” on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student’s full name, course title, and date. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

Ordination Deadline
If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (12 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student’s district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

Plagiarism
Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.

The following is borrowed from a college catalog.
Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one’s own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:
1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person’s production
2. Submitting as one’s own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one’s professor to be more accurate or skilled in one’s work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one’s own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:
1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person’s name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done
6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):

1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic “F” for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.
2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.
3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.