

PREACHING AND LITERARY GENRE: OT NARRATIVE, EPISTLES, AND WISDOM LITERATURE

3 Credit Hours

Instructors: Kent Hughes, Mark Dever, Phil Ryken, John Woodhouse, Dave Helm,
David Jackman, Doug O'Donnell, Josh Harris, Kathleen Nielson, Carrie Sandom, Colleen McFadden

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to provide students with tools, models and opportunities for practicing teaching from Old Testament (OT) Narrative, Epistles, and Wisdom Literature. Lectures will focus attention on the exegetical demands of those genres, specifically concerning how to study these texts for teaching and preaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this Course:

1. Students will have an accurate grasp of the main characteristics of OT Narrative, Epistles, and Wisdom Literature and understand the specialized opportunities and demands of teaching from texts of these genres.
2. Students will improve the quality of their own study and preparation for teaching by interacting with diverse, expert practitioners over their own preparation on texts from these genres.
3. Students will, by virtue of a mentored, critiqued ministry experience, be better able to bring all of their theological and ministry insights to bear on faithfully expounding these genres.
4. Students will appreciate the value of offering and receiving constructive feedback.
5. Students will allow the taught Word itself to inform their lives in ways consistent with the reasons the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in Scripture.

COURSE FORMAT

This Course is divided into three primary components. The first element is “Instruction” for the student’s apprehension of tools for studying and teaching from diverse genres. The instruction comes primarily through the lecture component as well as the reading materials, study guides and supplementary video/audio lectures available on the website. The second element is the “Demonstration” of the tools through model expositions. Practicing pastors and Bible teachers have partnered with the Course to give sermons or talks that both demonstrate the tools as well as feed the students in the Course. The third element is “Practice.” The students will submit their own work to the group in order to launch discussion and analysis aimed at improving each student’s work.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Clowney, Edmund P., *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*, Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

Arthurs, Jeffrey D., *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Helm, David, Robert Kinney, et al., *Study Guides on Biblical Genre*. Available on student website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

1. View all video lectures and attend all group sessions. Video lectures can be viewed together in groups or asynchronously. Group sessions will take place in person. Grade penalties will be assessed for excessive absences.

2. Complete the written study questions for each week of class and turn them into the Group Coordinator.
3. Read the passage from which each of the other group members will present prior to the group meeting. Offer a thoughtful critique of the presenter's work through the discussion. Engage the material and presenters.
4. Prepare practice outlines in advance of the group session on weeks when assigned, and submit outline to the Group Coordinator.
5. Prepare a practice talk in advance of the group session on weeks when assigned. Provide the Group Coordinator:
 - a. notes (however rough) *one week* in advance of giving the *practice talk*
 - b. a provisional outline of the message at least *three days* in advance
 - c. a two-page rationale/commentary for the homiletical decisions
 - d. a final outline of the practice talk
6. Read Jeffrey Arthurs's *Preaching With Variety* by the eighth week of the Course and on a ten-page, double-spaced report a) affirm that you have read the book, b) in 6-7 pages, summarize main point(s) of the author's argument(s), being sure to reference specific supporting insights and giving page numbers in parentheses, and, c) in the remaining 3-4 pages, engage personally with the content that you have already summarized. You should address the following questions: 1) How do the author's arguments affirm or challenge my current beliefs or practices in teaching ministry? 2) What from the book will I implement immediately? 3) Why would I recommend (or not recommend) this book?
7. Read Edmund Clowney's *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* by the thirteenth week of the Course and on a ten-page, double-spaced report a) affirm that you have read the book, b) in 6-7 pages, summarize main point(s) of the author's argument(s), being sure to reference specific supporting insights and giving page numbers in parentheses, and, c) in the remaining 3-4 pages, engage personally with the content that you have already summarized. You should address the following questions: 1) How do the author's arguments affirm or challenge my current beliefs or practices in teaching ministry? 2) What from the book will I implement immediately? 3) Why would I recommend (or not recommend) this book?
8. Participate in your church's training and teaching activities as part of your training.

COURSE GRADING

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Study Questions (required each week)	40%
Practice Outlines (two required)	20%
Practice Talk (including notes, outline, rationale)	30%
Reading Reports	10%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

94-100	A
90-93.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
84-86.9	B
80-83.9	B-

The same distribution in the 70s and 60s will be used for the C and D ranges.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This term is 15 weeks. Not including breaks for holidays, a typical term will follow this schedule:

OT Narrative 1 Lesson 1	View INSTRUCTION #1 (John Woodhouse) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #1 Read STUDY GUIDE for OT Narrative
OT Narrative 2 Lesson 2	View INSTRUCTION #2 (John Woodhouse) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #2 Practice Outline – Exodus 14:1-31 (Student)
OT Narrative 3 Lesson 3	View INSTRUCTION #3 (John Woodhouse) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #3 Practice Outline – 2 Kings 5:1-27 (Student)
OT Narrative 4 Lesson 4	View INSTRUCTION #4 (John Woodhouse) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #4 Practice Talk – Exodus 12 (Student)
OT Narrative 5 Lesson 5	View DEMONSTRATION #1 (Phil Ryken/Carrie Sandom) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #1 Practice Talk – Deuteronomy 27:1-10 (Student)
Epistles 1 Lesson 6	View INSTRUCTION #1 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #1 Read STUDY GUIDE for Epistles
Epistles 2 Lesson 7	View INSTRUCTION #2 (Phil Ryken) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #2 Practice Outline – Colossians 1:15-23 (Student)
Epistles 3 Lesson 8	View INSTRUCTION #3 (Mark Dever) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #3 Practice Outline – 2 Peter 1:1-15 (Student)
Epistles 4 Lesson 9	View DEMONSTRATION #1 (Kent Hughes/Lisa Helm) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #1 Practice Talk– 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 (Student)
Epistles 5 Lesson 10	View DEMONSTRATION #2 (Josh Harris/Colleen McFadden) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #2 Practice Talk – Jude 1-25 (Student)
Wisdom 1 Lesson 11	View INSTRUCTION #1 (David Jackman) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #1 Read STUDY GUIDE for Poetry/Wisdom
Wisdom 2 Lesson 12	View INSTRUCTION #2 (David Jackman) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #2 Practice Outline – Psalm 86 (Student)

Wisdom 3 Lesson 13	View INSTRUCTION #3 (Doug O'Donnell) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #3 Practice Outline – Proverbs 3:1-12 (Student)
Wisdom 4 Lesson 14	View DEMONSTRATION #1 (Doug O'Donnell) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #1 Practice Talk or Outline– Psalm 73 (Student)
Wisdom 5 Lesson 15	View DEMONSTRATION #2 (Kent Hughes/Carrie Sandom) Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #2 Practice Talk – Proverbs 2 (Student)

COURSE RESOURCES

- Adam, Peter, *Speaking God's Words*, Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1996.
- Alter, Robert, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, New York: BasicBooks, 1983.
- Arthurs, Jeffrey D., *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007. [REQUIRED]
- Caird, G.B., *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Chapell, Bryan, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Second Edition, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.
- Clowney, Edmund P., *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*, Wheaton: Crossway, 2003. [REQUIRED]
- Collins, Raymond, *Preaching the Epistles*, New York: Paulist Press, 1996.
- Duduit, Michael, *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*, Nashville: Broadman, 1992.
- Duling, Dennis, *The New Testament: History, Literature, and Social Context*, Fourth Edition, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr., *The Old Testament Documents*, Downers Grove: Inter Varsity, 2001.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr., *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament: A Guide for the Church*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.
- Johnson, Dennis E., *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures*, Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2007.
- Robinson, Haddon W., *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*, 2nd Edition, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Scharf, Greg R., *Prepared to Preach: God's Work and Ours in Proclaiming His Word*, Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2005.
- Spurgeon, Charles H., *Lectures to my Students: Complete and Unabridged*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1954.