The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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PR 525 Advanced Preaching Workshop  
Richard F Ward, Professor  
Spring 2014  
Thursdays: 2:30-5:15  
Prerequisite: PT500 (or its equivalent)

**Description:** In this course we will continue the work on the art and craft of preaching begun in PT 500. We will expand our focus to include attention to developing one’s own theology for preaching and one’s method for designing and speaking sermons. We will challenge our homiletical imaginations by composing creative interpretations of biblical texts and fresh images for God, and by meeting the difficulties of selected texts and crisis situations. Throughout the progress of the course our goal will be to create a nourishing collegial learning environment in the classroom.

**Goals:** By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Write a reflection paper that clarifies your theology of preaching
- Approach a crisis situation in pastoral ministry that requires a preached response
- Address the difficulties presented by certain biblical texts with insightful reflection
- Exercise your homiletical imaginations with greater energy
- Identify trajectories through recent homiletical theory and practice that influence your own preaching ministry

**Assignments:**

- Complete all reading assignments on time
- Keep a course journal (or e-file) that includes entries patterned after selected “student exercises” in *A Sermon Workbook* and/or responses to Paul Wilson’s *Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary. Preaching Year A.*
- Preach one mini-sermon (without notes) on the purpose of your preaching
- Preach three full length sermons (all sermons will be digitally recorded in the chapel)
- Turn in an e-file (or portfolio) that includes the following:
  - Exegetical notes on a ‘difficult’ text, framed as ‘plumbing the text’ and ‘forming the sermon’ (5 pages)
  - One reflection paper on either *The Sermon as God’s Word* by Robert Duke OR *Purposes of Preaching* edited by Jana Childers (5 pages)
  - One essay that describes your theology of preaching (5-7 pages)
  - At least one excerpt from your course journal (see above)
  - A manuscript of your final sermon (written in an oral style)
- Full participation in classwork: classwork includes oral reports, regular readings from your course journal, discussion of readings and oral or written exercises

**Evaluation and Grading:** I will make every effort to be fair in my assessment of your progress towards the goals we are setting for the class and then to transfer that assessment into the grading system in place at PTS found in the section on “Academic Policies” of the catalogue. A final

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1 Patterned after *A Sermon Workbook* p,115ff
grade will be awarded with the return of the portfolio/e-file after the end of the class. The breakdown for grading will be as follows:

- Exegetical notes 20%
- Reflection paper on one of the books 20%
- Theology of preaching essay 20%
- Full length sermons 30% (10% each)
- Journal entry/class work 10%

Drafts of items in the portfolio will be turned in at various points in the course (see due dates on the course schedule) for my review. I will return them with comments and suggestions for revision and then look for them in the portfolio/e-file at the end of the class.

**Attendance Policy:** “Any student who misses 20% or more of the class contact hours for a course, for any reason, cannot pass or successfully audit that course. The intention of the policy is not to be punitive, but to recognize that students should retake courses for credit if they miss a significant number of the class contact hours. If a student is absent for 20% or more of the semester, s/he cannot pass the course” (6.5 hours constitutes 20% of this class).²

**Disability Policy:** “Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs”³.

**PTS Catalog Definition of a Semester-Hour:** “In accord with regulations announced by the United States Department of Education in October 2010, the PTS faculty defines one semester-hour of academic credit as that which may be granted for successfully completing over the course of a semester a set of required learning activities representing approximately forty-five clock hours of graduate-level study. The workload/credit calculations related to the documentation of student learning are based on projections of the minimum time that a typical PTS student should anticipate spending in each course in direct instruction by the instructor(s), recommended reading and library research, synchronous and asynchronous online discussion, creative theological reflection and writing, content review and testing procedures, and other appropriate educational assignments designed by the instructor to ensure that students achieve the learning objectives of the course as published in the course syllabus.”

**Texts:**

**Required:**


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² For details, see ‘Academic Policies” in the PTS Catalog.
³ For details, see ‘Disabilities Policies and Procedures” in the Student Handbook, pp.17-18


**Highly Recommended for this course and for your library:**


**Course Schedule:**

**January 30: How Firm IS YOUR Foundation? Tracing Theological Influences in Christian Preaching**
- Be prepared to discuss the influence of the preachers identified in Robert Duke’s *The Sermon as God’s Word*
- What does your sermon preparation process look and feel like to you?
- Beginning to identify the forms and patterns of sermon design that most appeal to you

**Read:** *The Sermon as God’s Word*; Troeger/Tisdale chapters 7, 10

**February 6: Why Preach? Why Listen? Naming Some Purposes for Preaching**
- Placing statements of purpose in conversation with each other
- Identifying ‘hallmarks of good preaching’

**Read:** Selections from *Purposes of Preaching*; Troeger/Tisdale, chaps. 1, 2, 11

Prepare: Exercise (for your journal and for discussion) in the *Workbook*, p. 17-18; oral report on that compare/contrast two contributors in *Purposes of Preaching*

**February 13: Stepping Up and Speaking Out: My Preaching’s Purpose**
- Mini-sermons (5-7 minutes)
- Discussion of journal exercise from *Workbook*
- More work with forms and patterns of sermon design (see above)

**Read:** Troeger/Tisdale, chapters 15, 16
Prepare: Your mini-sermon

**February 20: Imagine THIS: Developing Your Homiletical Imagination**
- Through Critical Biblical Study

Read: the lectionary texts for Transfiguration Sunday (the last Sunday in Epiphany), Year A
Prepare: A draft of *Exegetical Notes for ONE of the four passages* (make use of Paul Wilson’s Abingdon Theological Commentary and/or Preaching God’s Transforming Justice); identify a focus and a function statement (see page 36, *Workbook*). **Note:** the final draft of these notes will appear in your portfolio Draft Exegetical Notes Due Feb 20

**February 27: Now Imagine THAT: Developing your Homiletical Imagination**
- Through creative bible study

Read: Troeger/Tisdale, chapter 6; chapters 19-24
Prepare: One of the exercises in the chapters assigned to read out loud for class

**March 6: Preach It!**

Preach your first sermons on a text of your choice
Be prepared to lead a discussion of your sermon
The sermons will be recorded in the chapel and made available for your review
Media assistance will be available if you choose to use a variety of media (images, powerpoint, etc.)

**March 13: Who Is It That I am Preaching To Anyway?**

Guest presenter: Rev. Sonja Tobey, DMIN candidate at PTS
Topic: Exegeting the Congregation for Preaching
Assignments: TBA

**Read Over Break:** *Crisis Preaching* by Joey Jeter; Troeger/Tisdale, chapters 13, 14
Prepare: Genesis 22:1-19 for discussion by reading from different commentaries that represent different perspectives. Be sure to consult the materials on reserve.

**March 20: Concentrated Course Week 1**
**March 27: Concentrated Course Week 2**

**April 3: What’s So Good About the News in THIS?**

Part 1: Preaching from a Difficult Text from the Hebrew Bible: Genesis 22:1-19
Discussion, reports from commentaries
Listen to a sermon on the passage

Discussion of Focus and Function
Listen to a Sermon on the passage

In addition to commentaries, read chapter 9 in Brandon Scott’s *Reimagining the World* (if you don’t have a copy of the book, I will make the chapter available)

Tom Long article online (Moodle)

**April 10: Preach your 2nd sermon**

The text must be taken from a list I will select.
Discussion of the text’s difficulty and how the preacher approached it

**April 17: Holy Week break**

**April 24: Donald Davis, professional storyteller**

Donald will be doing a workshop in storytelling for preachers for the wider community and then on the issues involved with biblical storytelling. It is an all day affair. Attendance for the afternoon session is required but highly recommended for the entire day.

Donald will be in Tulsa to perform for “Tapestry of Tales”, Tulsa’s first storytelling festival at Boston Avenue UMC

Here is the link to his website: [www.ddavisstoryteller.com](http://www.ddavisstoryteller.com)

**May 1: What’s the Matter?**

Crisis Preaching: Part 1

Discussion of the first part of Jeter’s book
Listen to a ‘crisis sermon’

**May 8: What IS the Matter?**

Crisis Preaching: Part 2

Discussing the rest of Jeter’s book
Discussion of Jeter’s sermons
Developing a Homiletical Strategy for your own preaching

**May 15: Final sermons**

Today you will preach your final sermons for the class
Be sure to address a ‘crisis’ situation
**Final portfolio is due**