



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

PR601 | Preaching: Principles and Practices

Course Developer and Instructor: Rev. Dr. Marnie M. Crumpler

Summer 2021 (May 25th – August 30th)

Required Web Meetings:

Wednesday, May 26th (6-8 PM ET/5-6 PM CST/3-5 PM PT)

Wednesday, July 7th (6-8 PM ET/5-6 PM CST/3-5 PM PT)

Wednesday, August 18th (6-8 PM ET/5-6 PM CST/3-5 PM PT)

Wednesday, August 25th (6-8 PM ET/5-6 PM CST/3-5 PM PT)

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:4*

*The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to
sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. Isaiah 50:4*

Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Mark 16:15

Contacts

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Marnie Crumpler at marniecrumpler@gracecb.org / (678) 641-3758
Flourish: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

This course is designed to equip the student for developing and delivering biblical, exegetical sermons that are relevant to the preaching context. You will gain experience in the spiritual, biblical, communication, and administrative practices necessary to preach an effective sermon.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will develop a basic procedure for moving from the text to the sermon that includes:

- 1) The Spiritual Task - Developing a set of spiritual practices for their own discipleship and for preaching.
- 2) The Biblical Task
 - A. Faithfully explaining the meaning of a biblical text in its context
 - B. Using tools to look at key words and theological ideas in the text
 - C. Using the exegetical work to discern the big idea
 - D. Developing an outline with effective illustrations
- 2) The Communication Task
 - A. Writing a sermon manuscript appropriate to context that invites life application
 - B. Effectively connecting and communicating with or without a manuscript
- 3) The Administrative Task
 - A. Cascading the sermon big idea through the worship service
 - B. Planning a preaching calendar
 - C. Creatively planning for Christmas and Easter
 - D. Pastorally thinking about difficult sermons

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for four (4) web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-6 that will have several web meetings. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
1	May 25-31	The Spiritual Practices of the Preacher
2	June 1-7	Finding Your Own Voice – Listening to Learn
3	June 8-14	The Biblical Task – Prayer and Exegesis
4	June 15-21	The Biblical Task – The Big Idea
5	June 22-28	The Communication Task – The Power of Illustrations, Titles, Introductions, and Conclusions
6	June 29-July 5	Week of July 4 – Break; No Coursework Due
7	July 6-12	The Communication Task – From Text to Sermon (Don’t forget your context)
8	July 13-19	The Communication Task – Why the Manuscript is not the Sermon (and Manuscript, Outline, or Notes?)
9	July 20-26	The Administrative Task: Your Sermon and the Worship Service
10	July 27-Aug. 2	The Administrative Task: Planning the Year’s Sermons
11	Aug. 3-9	Sermons for Christmas and Easter
12	Aug. 10-16	Difficult Sermons
13 14	Aug 17-23 Aug 24-30	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

Course Requirements

I. Readings

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and

will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Robinson, Haddon and Craig Brian Larson, editors. *The Art & Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Zondervan, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0-310-25248-1
- Stanley, Andy and Rodney Lane Jones. *Communicating for a Change*. Multnomah, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-1-59052-514-2
- Kim, Matthew. *A Little Book for New Preachers*. IVP Academic, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-5347-2
- Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson, editors. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Baker Book, 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-9158-2
- Ferguson, Dave. *The Big Idea*. Zondervan, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-310-27241-0
- Chappell, Bryan. *The Hardest Sermons You'll Ever Have to Preach*. Zondervan, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-310-33121-6

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

Course-Related

- Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching As Reminding*. IVP Academic, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-5190-4
- Capill, Murray. *The Heart is the Target*. P&R Publishing, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1-59638-841-3
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-9974-8
- Evans, Tony. *The Power of Preaching*. Moody Publishers, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-0-8024-1830-2
- Hulst, Mary S. *A Little Handbook for Preachers*. IVP Books, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-4128-8
- Keller, Timothy. *Preaching*. Penguin, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0-14-310871-9
- Kim, Matthew D. *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence*. Baker Academic, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-4962-0
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*. Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-4912-5
- Watkins, Eric Brian. *The Drama of Preaching*. Wipf & Stock, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1-4982-7859-1

Program-Related

- Kibbe, Michael, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. ISBN-13: 978-0830851317
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

II. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

III. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

IV. Small Groups

Students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will be placed in groups of 4-6 students. In this course, groups will be required to find a mutually agreeable time to meet in select lessons (four times) via Zoom to discuss course content. Each student will submit a summary of each group session. Instructions and discussion prompts will be available in the course site.

V. Web-Meetings with Course Instructor

Students will meet four times with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content and student insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site.

VI. Major Paper and Presentation and Due Dates

Students will have three major assignments and will present their sermon at one of the last web meetings:

Book Review (from recommended booklist)

June 28th This paper should be 5-7 pages double-spaced answering the following:

- What is the central idea of the book?
- What was new in this book for you?
- What can you apply in this book?
- Is there anything you disagree with in this book?

Illustration Journal. This journal should include at least 10 illustrations that include what text you might use the sermon for and key words for filing.

July 19th 5 Illustrations Due

August 9th 5 Illustrations Due

Sermon. You will choose a New Testament text and work through it throughout the course.

June 7th Text Approved

July 12th Big Idea and Exegesis Due

July 26th Sermon Outline Due

August 16th Manuscript Due

August 18th & 25th Sermon Presentation

Full descriptions of all assignments can be found on the course site.

VII. [Course Reports](#)

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, small group attendance, and class video session attendance.

[Assignment Formatting and Submission](#)

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY

example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Weekly Readings and Reflections	15%
Sermon Reflections	10%
Small Group Reflections	10%
Book Review	15%
Illustration Journal	5%
Sermon Big idea/Exegesis (10) Outline (5) Manuscript (5) Presentation (20)	40%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

Last updated: April 23, 2021

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be July 13th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- June 4th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- June 18th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- July 2nd – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- August 20th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

Once August 20th passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.