

MAS 521 Homiletics I

Fall Term, 2008
Mondays, 8-11 a.m.

Instructor Name	Robert Fish, Ph.D.
Office Hours	Monday, Thursday, 1-3 p.m., other times by appointment. Rm. 230
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Term	Fall: September 29-December 11, 2008
Prerequisites	None
Required Texts	Childers, J. (1998). <i>Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre</i> . Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press.
Recommended Materials	

Course Description

This course teaches the theoretical and practical aspects of the Sunday lesson. Students learn relevant communication theory from the time of Aristotle to today and learn how to research, create and deliver memorable talks that are dynamic “expressions of God.” Students will prepare and deliver lessons of varying lengths.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the relevance of communication theory as it applies to church and spiritual settings.
2. Demonstrate an advanced level of skill in the development and presentation of a spiritual public address
3. Integrate appropriate Biblical quotations, stories, and other references into their lessons.
4. Analyze the content and style of renowned ministers and spiritual speakers as role models for students’ own communication development.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following program outcome for the Master of Divinity:

MD-1 Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following program outcome for the Certificate:

C-1 Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following program outcome for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

MA-3 Create and maintain a personal spiritual practice.

Class Schedule

Students are expected to complete the readings for each class on the day assigned.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment/Test
1.	September 29	1. Audience analysis 2. Organizational patterns	Childers, Ch. 1
2.	October 6	Projection, renowned speakers	Childers, Ch. 3
3.	October 13	Talk #1	Prepare talk #1
4.	October 20	Delivery	Childers, ch. 2
5.	October 27	Talk #2	Prepare talk #2
6.	November 3	Reading Scripture, poetry, quotations	Childers, ch. 4
7.	November 10	Talk #3	Prepare talk #3
8.	November 17	Impromptu speaking	Childers, ch. 5
9.	November 24	Talk #4	Prepare talk #4
10.	December 1	TBA	Childers, ch. 6

11. December 8 Talk #5 Prepare talk #5

Grading

Course Requirements: Master of Divinity

Create and deliver five talks	Meets Learning Objectives 2, 3	Due Oct. 13-Dec. 18
Write a reflection paper. Due December 1	Meets Learning Objectives 1, 4	Due December 1

Course Requirements: Master of Arts in Religious Studies

Create and deliver five talks	Meets Learning Objectives 2, 3	Due Oct. 13-Dec. 8
Write a reflection paper. Due December 1	Meets Learning Objectives 1, 4	Due December 1

Course Requirements: Certificate in Unity Ministry

Create and deliver five talks	Meets Learning Objectives 2, 3	Due Oct. 13-Dec. 8
Write a reflection paper. Due	Meets Learning Objectives 1,	Due December 1

December 1	4	
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Grading: There are six assignments, one written and five experiential. Each of the six assignments is worth 16.6% of the grade. Grading will be on a straight scale, not on a curve.

Final Grade Determination

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

Grading Scale

Grades for graduate work are A, B, C, D and F, and receive the following grade points:

A = 4 grade points per credit hour (or unit)

B = 3 grade points per credit hour (or unit)

C = 2 grade points per credit hour (or unit)

D = 0 grade points per credit hour (or unit)

F = 0 grade points per credit hour (or unit)

I = Incomplete (see section below on incomplete grades)

W = Withdrawal (see section below on withdrawal)

AU = Successful audit (see section below on auditing a class)

WA = Withdrawn or unsuccessful audit (see section below on auditing a class)

Graduation requires a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Grades below C may not be used to satisfy degree requirements, and a maximum of six hours of a grade of C may be counted toward a degree. Courses may be repeated in regularly scheduled terms (not as independent study). In such cases, both grades are posted and only the repeated grade is calculated in the term and cumulative grade point averages. Credit will be given only once toward graduation requirements.

Late Assignment Policy

Talks must be delivered when scheduled. No make-ups will be given except for emergencies when the faculty member is contacted by the student in advance. Term papers are due on the day scheduled. A late paper will be assessed a 5% penalty per day (weekends/holidays included).

Academic Integrity

All work submitted in this course must be the student's own work. This policy includes all assignments, exams, papers, and other projects required by the instructor. The submission of another person's work represented as that of the student without properly citing the source of the work will be considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade (zero) for that assignment or exam. A second incident will result in a failing grade (zero) for the course. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the program. Students should consult the Unity Institute Student Handbook for a full explanation of academic honesty and plagiarism.

Attendance Policy

Because this class focuses on student led activities, attendance is a factor in grading. If students miss a class, they are responsible for obtaining lecture notes and any information from another student. Should students decide to quit attending this class, they should officially drop it at the Registrar's Office. Failure to do this will result in an F for the course no matter how many days the student has attended.