

BRIERCREST

CM 820 Preaching Specialty: Preaching the Psalms Fall 2019

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Course Dates: December 9-13, 2019

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building on the exegetical and homiletical skills learned in CM 632 Homiletics, this course is an in-depth and practical study to better equip the student to preach the Psalms. The course content, required reading and assignments will further develop exegetical techniques that one can use to interpret Hebrew poetry as a genre. Each student will preach once in class and be required to submit a second sermon following the class.

Prerequisite: CM 632 Homiletics

COURSE INTEGRATION

Preaching the Psalms will aid the student's spiritual formation by creating greater application of the Psalms to shape genuine expressions in students' prayer lives. Subsequent preaching the Psalms in one's church will develop greater breadth in corporate and individual worship of God. Exploring the Psalms' full expressions of emotion will deepen pastoral empathy. The interpretation techniques learned in this poetic genre will subsequently aid in the interpretation of other scripture where poetry occurs – such as the prophetic writings.

COURSE TEXTS

Nehrbass, Daniel Michael. *Praying Curses: The Therapeutic and Preaching Value of the Imprecatory Psalms*. Eugene, OR. Pickwick Publications, 2013.

Tripp, David Paul. *Awe: Why it Matters For Everything We Think, Say, & Do*. Wheaton, IL., Crossway, 2015.

New American Standard Bible. Other versions/paraphrases of the Bible will be helpful, but as secondary resources.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>. Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the course of study, required reading, interaction and assignments the student will:

Thinking

1. Discern general sub-genre of the Psalms and how each can be preached for the spiritual formation of the student and their church.
2. Grasp the different forms of parallelism, and how other rhetorical devices are used by the Psalmists.
3. Wrestle with how to preach “unsettling” Psalms as a means of preaching the whole counsel of God.
4. Understand how “Big Idea” preaching can be used to preach the Psalms.
5. Reflect deeply and accurately on the meaning of the images used by the Psalmists.
6. Critique others’ sermons from the Psalms in a considered way whereby they can personally learn and grow in their own understanding and practice of preaching.

Valuing

1. Have a growing appreciation of the Psalms as the church’s prayer book.
2. Deeply empathize with the wide range of emotions that the Psalmists express.
3. Have a growing sense of wonder at the God of whom these Psalms describe and to Whom they are addressed.
4. Be comfortable and humbly confident in preaching any Psalm.

Living and Serving

1. Competently diagram any Psalm.
2. Accurately interpret the “Big idea” from any Psalm or portion of a Psalm.
3. Wisely transition between Old Testament Psalms and the New Testament.
4. Preach any Psalm - with sensitivity to its mood, accuracy of its content and pertinent application to the listener.
5. Integrate the Psalms into their own prayer lives as an accessible means of spiritual growth.
6. Discover the use of images and appropriate rhetorical devices increasing in their own preaching.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Monday

- 9:00-10:00 – Registration/introductions/syllabus review
- 10:00-10:30 – Seminary coffee break
- 10:30-12:00 – The “Big Idea” as a model for expository preaching

Lunch

1:00-4:45 – The “Big Idea” continued/ Distinctives of the Psalms as a genre and sub-genres within them

Tuesday

8:30-12:00 – Exegeting the Psalms

Lunch

1:00-4:45 – Exegeting the Psalms

Wednesday

8:30-9:45 – Exegeting the Psalms/ Moving from exegesis to sermon

9:50-10:30 – President’s Chapel with the College

10:30-12:00 – Moving from exegesis to sermon

Lunch

1:00-4:45 – Moving from exegesis to sermon/ evaluation of sample sermon(s)

Thursday

8:30-10:00 – Students sharing personal Psalms

10:00-11:45 – Moving from exegesis to sermon/ evaluation of sample sermon(s)

Seminary Spotlight and lunch

1:15-4:45 – Sermon synthesis

Friday

8:30-? – Student sermons from praise/enthronement Psalms

ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. Read *Awe: Why it Matters For Everything We Think, Say, & Do* and:
 - a. Choose four (4) of the following sixteen (16) quotes and write a 12-15 page paper that answers all of these three (3) questions for each chosen quote: (1) In what ways is this quote accurate to what I notice within and around me? (2) What would happen if I applied what is stated or implied in the quote to my congregation, family or social circle? (3) What could change if I applied what is stated or implied in the quote to my life?
 What follows are the quotes you are to choose from (I will give page number and the beginning and end of the quote for those who may be using an e-reader): (i) page 19 – “Awe stimulates...reach for Awe.”; (ii) page 32 – “AWE causes...anywhere good.”; (iii) pages 44-45 – “One generation shall commend...their awe of God.”; (iv) pages 48-9 – “In ministry you are...and courage.”; (v) page 50 – “The spiritual warfare...all successful ministries.”; page 51 – “Finally, here the battle...right-now grace.”; (vi) pages 56-7 – “You see it played out...grumbling plentiful.” (vii) page 70 – “Relational dysfunction...able to deliver.” (viii) page 82 – “Obedience is...and grace.”; (ix) pages 100-01 – “But God is good...calls us to do.”; (x) page 203 – “You and I...for our good.”; (xi) pages 104-6 – “Does God care...deaf ear to your cries.”; (xii) page 115 – “Here’s the point...rescue me from me.”; page 138-9 – “Your idea of God...at nothing properly.”; (xiii) pages 151-2 – “If we were honest...of the Redeemer.”; (xiv) pages 155-6 – “Awe of God...church relationships.” (xv) page 166 – “Here’s God’s plan...in their lives.”; (xvi) pages 184-5 – “And if awe requires...(Rev.22:17,29)”.

- b. Choose two (2) more quotes that impressed you in the book and answer the same three (3) questions as listed above.
Value: 15%
Due: Monday, December 9, 2019 (submitted to Canvas)
2. Read *Praying Curses: The Therapeutic and Preaching Value of the Imprecatory Psalms*, and write a 12-15-page paper that accomplishes the following:
 - a. Ignore the spelling mistake on the cover and numerous others within the book. It's worth the read.
 - b. In chapter two Nehrbass presents 13 approaches for handling the imprecatory Psalms. Name the model(s) that you are most comfortable with and give and defense as to why.
 - c. In chapter 7 the author provides a model for assessing a church's present cultural treatment of these Psalms and moving toward greater incorporation of them into church life. (1) Follow the process of diagnosis spelled out in pages 121-124, using appropriate questions from page 123-124 with your church/small group within your church/fellowship group you are a part of. (2) Continue to follow the "critical reflection" step of the process on pages 124-128. (3) Finally, based on the guidelines on pages 129-144 project a plan for how you might be involved in the application stage of having the imprecatory Psalms become a larger part of your personal devotional and your corporate church practice.
 - d. In chapter 9 Nehrbass provides 5 example sermons. They are topical rather than expository. Pick the sermon you like either the best or the least, and write a technical analysis of it. Based on your previous homiletical training, look at the introductions, conclusions, applications, transitions, logical flow of content, quality of illustrations/images etc.. What did you like about the sermon? What needs improvement? How would you change it? We may look at a few of these in class, so please have a copy of this part of your paper with you.
Value: 15%
Due: Monday, December 9, 2019 (submitted to Canvas)

Mid-Course Assignments:

1. Compose a brief psalm comprised of 6-10 lines in length. On Thursday morning each student will read their psalm to the class, as well as providing a written copy of it for every class member. In 10-12 minutes, you will share with us the circumstances that inspired your psalm and point out the type of Psalm you have composed and the parallelism, imagery and rhetorical devices you used in composing it. You will then explain its meaning and make application of its truth(s) to our lives.
Value: 10%
2. Preach a sermon from a praise or enthronement Psalm in class (on Friday). Students will submit, at the time of preaching, a full manuscript (including the sermon outline) **and** their rough notes **and** a proposed order of service for the worship service in which the sermon would be preached. These sermons are to be prepared using all of the methods presented in class. The manuscript must be typewritten. **All** (i.e. the manuscript, outline and rough notes) must be submitted on the due date. **The submitted sermon manuscript must include explanatory commentary in parentheses at the end of every paragraph.** The preached

sermon is to be 20 minutes long (marks will be lost if it is substantially over or under time). **The preached sermon is not considered as complete until the one-page self-evaluation is submitted.**

Value: Rough notes and Order of Service: 20%

Preached sermon with Self-evaluation: 10%

3. Participation in class discussion and group activities is expected as a beneficial part of the student's learning process and as a necessary educational contribution to their classmates.

Post-Course Assignments:

1. Students will prepare and preach a sermon from a lament or imprecatory Psalm. He/she will submit a video of the sermon as well as a full manuscript (including the sermon outline) **and** their rough notes **and** a copy of the Order of Service for the worship service in which it is preached. These sermons are to be prepared using all of the methods presented in class. The manuscript must be typewritten. **All** (i.e. the manuscript, outline and rough notes) must be handed in on the due date. **The submitted sermon manuscript must include explanatory commentary in parentheses at the end of every paragraph.** The preached sermon is to be 20 minutes long (marks will be lost if it is substantially over or under time). **The preached sermon is not considered as complete until the one-page self-evaluation (distributed in class) is submitted.**

Value: Rough notes and Order of Service: 20%

Preached sermon with Self-evaluation: 10%

Due: Friday, February 7, 2020 (submitted to Canvas)

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend 100% of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week

after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Director of the Academic Resource Centre in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (academicresourcecentre@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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McCann, J. Clinton Jr & Howell, James C. *Preaching the Psalms*. Nashville TN.: Abingdon Press, 2001.

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