

MPS 281: Theology & Practice of Preaching

Fall Session 2020

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

September 14, 2020 – December 9, 2020

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Classes are every Monday, 8:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. AND Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Newman Theological College – St. Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructors Name: (Rev. Fr.) Sylvain J.Y. Casavant, PSS
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Course Description

The theology of the Word of God. Theological and pastoral principles of preaching. A practicum of preaching.

Course Objectives

- **Intellectual formation**
 - The student will be introduced to the preaching experience as expressed in the Bible and how that informs the preacher concerning the significance of preaching and the content of preaching.
 - Emphasis will be placed on recognizing that Christ is the primary preacher and the preacher's role in light of this first principle.
 - The student will be encouraged to move from abstract theological concepts to concrete stories, emotive expressions, witnesses of the faith, etc. in order to enrich the preaching experience.
- **Cultural Context**
 - The student will be taught the importance of knowing and responding to the audience at hand when preparing a homily. Reflection on the community (its cultural diversity, age, immediate issues, and historical background) and reflecting on the events of the day are essential in order to speak the Word of God effectively to the particular group to whom you are to preach.
- **Personal and Spiritual Formation**
 - The student will be aided to foster a pastor's mind when preparing to preach to the faith community. The emphasis here is that a preacher learns to make the Word of God

foundational to his/her spirituality and recognize the centrality of the Holy Spirit in allowing this Word to transform the hearts of the congregational members.

- **Capacity for Ministry Leadership**

- The student should come to appreciate that the ministry of preaching is a vital and necessary part of sustaining the congregation in faith and of revealing the reign of God so as to help foster continued and new conversions.
- The student will develop communication skills appropriate for homiletic purposes. Emphasis will be placed on the art of writing in the homiletic form.
- To help foster a pastor's mind when preparing to preach to a faith community.
- To help develop communication skills.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Because this course is primarily a practicum, the emphasis is on writing and evaluating homilies. There is, however, also the theology and theory of preaching. The following requirements take these two facts into account.

Outline, prepare, compose and preach 3 homilies to be presented in class. The first homily will be a working homily on which we will be attempting to create a proper style that will help to create a unified and interesting homily. The emphasis of this first homily will be on the creative style of writing a homily. It will be presented 2 times for marking. The 3rd homily will be marked 2 times again in order to confirm a growth in homiletic style. Some of the homilies *may* not necessarily be presented to the whole class.

All the homilies will be graded according to their theology, structure, style, their appropriateness to the given audience and circumstance and, the effectiveness of the presentation by the preacher. NOTE: Other persons may be invited to help in the evaluation. You will be asked to write and preach for the following situations:

1. A Sunday Eucharistic Celebration (25% - MPS 281)
2. One of the following special celebrations given to the student by the instructor (20% - MPS 281)
 - A Marian feast
 - Christmas (Mass in the night)
 - Christmas (Mass during the day)
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday
 - Trinity Sunday
 - Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
3. One of the following sacramental celebrations given to the student by the instructor (25% - MPS 281)
 - First Holy Communion
 - Penance Service
 - Marriage celebration
 - Funeral
4. Final oral exam concerning the theology and theory of preaching. (30% - MPS 281)

NOTE

All written documents are to be typed using:

- Times New Roman
- 12 Font
- Double spaced
- Right Justified

- 1 inch margins top, bottom and sides

When you present the homilies, you may choose to make the font larger for your own personal use. That same text, however, must be handed into the instructor using the noted style.

Textbooks

Benedict XVI, (Joseph Ratzinger). *Dogma and Preaching: Applying Christian Doctrine to Daily Life*. Ed. Michael Miller. Trans. Michael Miller and Matthew O'Connell. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2011.

***Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. *Homiletic Directory*. June 2014. <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/HomileticDirectory.pdf>

Pope Francis. Apostolic Exhortation. *Evangelii Gaudium*. November 2013: 135-159.
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

Other readings as assigned by the instructor.

***NOTE: This document will be handed out to you in class.

Recommended Reading

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. *Lectionary for Mass: Introduction*. 19 June 1998.

Levada (Cardinal), William. 12 February 2008. *The Homilist - Teacher of the Faith*. 13 June 2012.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20080212_levada-homilist_en.html

NCCB. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*. Washington, DC: USCC, 1982.

Manley, Johanna. *The Bible and the Holy Fathers for Orthodox: Daily Scripture Readings and Commentary for Orthodox Christians*. Menlo Park, CA: Monastery Books, 1990.
NTC Library: BX 360 A5 M53 1990 - also available at SVS Press for \$60
US <https://svspress.com/bible-and-the-holy-fathers-for-orthodox-the-hardcover/>

Course Requirements

Some of the classes will be offered in workshop style, thus, participation and discussion in these classes will be paramount.

The assigned homilies will be graded according to their theology, structure, their appropriateness to the given audience & the particular circumstance and, the oral presentation by the preacher. The students listening to the homily will also be graded on their evaluation of the presentation.

Late Submission Policy.

When a minister is to preach to a congregation, s/he cannot offer the excuse of being too busy to prepare and have nothing to offer. Thus, late submissions are not easily accepted by the educator. If the student offers a legitimate reason (extreme illness, death of a significant other, major stress due to an *unforeseen* issue) to the professor at least one FULL day before the due date, the date may be changed without penalty. Otherwise, if the assignment is not handed in on time, it will not be marked and the student will receive 0% for the assignment.

Course Schedule

- Major themes covered within the 36 hours of class time.
 - The importance of prayer and study in preparing a homily and methods for each

- Knowing the audience to whom you will be preaching and responding to their needs
- Preparing & creating a unified homily
- Effective principles to help the listener remember the message offered in the homily
- The theology of preaching. Its origin and purpose and the indispensability of the Word in forming the preacher
- Creative writing to help the preacher in concretizing abstract theological ideas
- Preaching at special celebrations – Weddings, Funerals, with children
- Simple communication skills to be more affective as a preacher
- Along with the major themes, time is given to experience the assigned homilies that have been prepared.

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7

Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Aichters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography

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- . *The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power, and Weakness*. Ed. Charles Campbell. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
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- . *Preaching Effectively, Revitalizing your Church: the Seven-Step Ladder toward Successful Homilies*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2009.

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