# Course Syllabus
# Wycliffe College
# Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

**This class will be offered by remote access. Students will be expected to log in to regularly scheduled Zoom sessions.**

**Class attendance and participation in remote or synchronous online learning classes.** The same expectations for student engagement and participation which applies to in-class learning also apply to remote or synchronous learning situations. Students who log into the Zoom site but do not contribute during discussion times and are not visible through live video will not be counted as participating in the class.

Please see information at  https://wycliffecollege.ca/remotelearning

Before proceeding you will require a webcam and microphone. Laptops have these by default. If you have a desktop you will need to purchase a webcam (webcams come with built in microphone).

 **Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)**

*Remote courses, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.*

## Course Identification

Course Number :      WYP2301HF
Course Name:         Introduction to Preaching
Campus:              St. George

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Peter Robinson                     Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: probinson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca         E-mail:


Office Hours:     by appointment

## Course Prerequisites or Requisites

This course is a second year course.  It is recommended that the student has already completed their first year of courses before taking Introduction to Preaching.

## Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the skills and craft of preaching by exploring basic approaches to preaching and sermon preparation, attentive listening to a variety of preachers and practical assignments. This practical approach will be framed by a theological understanding which will take into account the elements that the preacher must be aware of in preaching including: appropriate handling of the biblical text, the life and ministry of the local church, the values and suppositions of the prevailing culture, and finally the preacher's own world view.

## Course Methodology

The course will consist of lectures, preaching labs, weekly review of assigned sermons, and assigned readings

## Course Outcomes

| COURSE OUTCOMES | COURSE ELEMENT | PROGRAM OUTCOMES |
|---|---|---|
| **By the end of this course, students** | **This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:** | **This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)** |
| • will develop a theological framework regarding the character and place of preaching in the life of a local Church. | Weekly review of online sermons, outline of preaching series in Ephesians. | **MTS:** 2.1 <br> **MDiv:** 2.1 |
| •will analyze and assess the different elements involved in constructing and delivering a sermon. | Weekly review of online sermons, class participation, preaching labs | **MTS:** 2.1 <br> **MDiv:** 2.1 |
| • will interpret biblical texts in the context of a clear method and hermeneutic for sermon preparation. | Preaching lab – especially the exegesis assignments, weekly review of online sermons | **MTS:** 2.2, 3.3 <br> **MDiv:** 1.1,1.2, 2.2, 2.3 |
| • will identify, implement, and demonstrate the basic skills that are foundational to preaching including: the practice of finding a focus for the sermon; shaping the form of a sermon in the context of both the text and the local community; | Preaching lab including - preaching twice, offering feedback to other students, weekly review of online sermons | **MTS:** 2.2, 3.3 <br> **MDiv:** 1.1,1.2, 2.2, 2.3 |

## Course Resources

### Required Course Texts

1. Long, Thomas G. *Witness of preaching* 3rd ed, Louiseville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.
2. Stott, John R.W. *Between Two Worlds: the Challenge of Preaching Today*, Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1982

Textbooks are available at The University of Toronto Faculty of Law Bookstore located on Level One of 78 Queen's Park. (P125, Phone: 416-978-6906). The books can be picked up at the store or they will be shipped to you. The Law Bookstore is managed by Heather Weir. She can be contacted at the bookstore phone number or by email at hweir@uoftbookstore.com.

### Course Website(s)

- **Quercus**: https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the U of T Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701 .

## Class Schedule

*Week 1 (September 15)* **A theological foundation for preaching**.

*Readings*: Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: the Challenge of Preaching Today*, Ch. 2&3;
Buttrick, David G. "Preaching Today: the Loss of a Public Voice, 1993" in *The Folly of Preaching*.

*Week 2 (September 22)* **The preacher in relationship to both world and Word; working with the text in the context of God's engagement with humanity**.

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Ch 2; Stott, *Between Two Worlds*, Ch 5; (

additional optional readings:

- Joseph Mangina, 'Getting People Into the Story; On Not Getting Anything Out of Sermons', *The Living Church* 2011.
- 'Hear His Most Holy Word', David Curry, http://www.lectionarycentral.com/curry.html
- You might also have a look at the Bible Project when you go to study different books of the bible. It offers great introductions to the different books of the bible. https://thebibleproject.com/

*Week 3 (September 29)* **Working with the text continued**.

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Chapter 3; (additional resource: Gordon Fee, *How to Read the Bible for all its worth*).

*Week 4 (October 6)* **What do preachers do all day?**

*Readings*: Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Ch 1; Achtemeier, Elizabeth, "The Artful Dialogue; Some Thoughts on the Relation of Biblical Studies and Homiletics", *Interpretation*. 35 (January 1981): 18–31.

*Preaching Lab begins in week 4 or 5 and continues each week for the rest of the course.*

*Week 5 (October 13)* **Finding the focus: what is the one thing that needs to be heard from this text by this congregation and why?**

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Ch. 4; Stott, *Between two Worlds*, Ch 6.

*Week 6  (October 20)* **Crafting a sermon: an overview of the essential building blocks**.

*Readings*: Buttrick, David G. "Interpretation and Preaching", *Interpretation* XXXV:1 (January 1981), 46–58; Newbigin, Lesslie "Preaching Christ Today", *The Eighteenth Joseph Smith Memorial Lecture*, Overdale College, Birmingham, 1979: http://www.newbigin.net/assets/pdf/79pct.pdf.

*Week 7* Reading Week.

*Week 8  (November 3)* **Shaping the form of the sermon**.

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Ch. 5 &. 6.

*Week 9  (November 10)* **Putting it all together: connections, images, and stories**.

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Ch. 7&8; (Additional reading: Cornelius Plantinga Jr, 'Tuning the Preacher's Ear', *Books and Culture*.)

*Week 10* **(November 17) Preaching in a particular time and place: the preacher in relationship to culture (exegesis of culture)**.

*Readings*: Stott, *Between Two Worlds*, Ch 4; Willimon, William H. 'Preaching as Missionary Encounter with North American Paganism', *Journal for Preachers* 22/3 (1999).

*Week 11* **(***November 24***) The preacher in relationship to the church: formation of the community through preaching**.

*Readings*: Stott, *Between Two Worlds*, Ch 7.

*Week 12 (December 1)* **The preacher in the pulpit: finding your voice**.

*Readings*: Long, *Witness*, Chapter 10.

*Week 13 (December 8)* **Concluding remarks on the Preaching Life**.

*Readings*: Stott, *Between Two Worlds*, Ch 8.

## Evaluation

## Requirements

   1.  **Class participation, weekly readings and sermon feedback: 20% of the final grade**

The weekly assigned readings are an integral part of the course. It is expected that the students will come to class prepared to discuss what they have read. **\*\*\*** There are two primary texts both of which should be available at bookstore. (John Stott, *Between Two Worlds* and Thomas Long, *The Witness of Preaching*, 3rd edition). Other assigned readings are available on-line through the University of Toronto.

Sermon feedback: Beginning in the fourth or fifth week of class participation in the preaching lab will include students being assigned, on a rotating basis, the task of offering feedback on the sermons of their peers. Students will offer constructive critique of the sermon using the guidelines from the weekly review of assigned sermons below.

2. **Weekly Review of Assigned Sermons:  20% of the final grade**.

Students will listen to an assigned sermon every week and write a brief review.  The weekly reviews are to be submitted on Quercus before the class each week.  Audio, video and pdf sermons will be assigned the first day of class and will represent a variety of preachers and styles. There are 10 sermons assigned for review but students are only required to submit reviews for 8 sermons.  If a student submits all 10 then the two lowest grades will be dropped in determining their grade for this assignment. Students are expected to come to class each week prepared to discuss the assigned sermon.

Each week after listening to the assigned sermon for the week the student will provide a brief response (1 page maximum for the whole review) to the following questions:

1. What is the context within which the preacher is speaking?

- Not just where the sermon was preached but the type of congregation, time of year/church calendar, occasion, etc.

2. How did the preacher handle the biblical text?

- Was the message of the sermon faithful to the message of the text? Did the preacher exegete the text well? Did the preacher impose a particular perspective or presupposition on the text, or did the preacher allow the text to shape their sermon message? Was the application faithful to the text? Did the illustrations illuminate or obscure the message of the text? You will need to read the text yourself!

3. What was the central focus of the sermon? Is it clearly stated?

- State the central focus of the sermon in one sentence. Was it easy to find the central focus? Did there seem to be more than one focus (or a lack of focus)? Hint: If you can't state the central focus in one sentence, then it probably was not clearly stated.

4. What worked, what didn't?

- You can look at what worked and didn't work for you personally, but also consider the context of the sermon. What do you think worked and what didn't work for the audience to whom the sermon was preached? This can include illustrations, application, style, content, etc.

*Assignment is due at the beginning of class each week.*

3. **Preaching:  50% of the final grade**

Each student will preach twice during the course. Students who have some experience in preaching are invited to go first.  Sign up will be the first day of class.  After all the students have preached one sermon the preaching rota will repeat.  The texts for the assigned sermons each week will be taken from the lectionary readings for the following week.  Each student will preach once from a gospel reading and once from an epistle during the term. The preaching rota will be set up on the first day of class and student preaching will begin on the fourth or fifth week of classes.  The sermons are to be 12-15 minutes in length.  Each student will be required to videotape their sermon and to load the video on to the Quercus website.  University of Toronto offers a software program called snagit for free which will allow students to record their sermon. https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/lecture-capture

Students are welcome to use other software for the recording as long as the video is available in a readily viewable format.

- Two weeks before the student preaches in class they will submit a one page summary of their exegesis of the text highlighting the major issues.

- The day that they preach they will submit a full manuscript of the sermon before the beginning of class. Included with the manuscript will be a sentence detailing the central focus of the sermon.
- Two weeks after the student has preached they will submit a short self review based on viewing a recording of their sermon and the feedback sheets submitted by their peers. The self-review should be a maximum of one page in length. The intention is to see what you have learned through the process of preaching with feedback.

(Grading of preaching will be 30% for exegesis of the text, 30% for content, 30% for presentation, 10 % for self-review).

### 4. Sermon series: 10% of the final grade

You are to design a six week sermon series based on the letter to the Ephesians. You can divide the letter up in any way you choose and you do not need to include the whole letter. You need an overall title for the series with a brief explanation of what the series is about. You then need a title for each week along with the particular passage that you will be speaking on for the week. It would be helpful to have a brief description of the community that you are designing the series for. Due one week after the last day of class.

# Grading System

| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalents | Grade Point | Grasp of Subject Matter |
|---|---|---|---|
| A+ | 90–100% | 4.0 | Profound & Creative |
| A | 85–89% | 4.0 | Outstanding |
| A- | 80–84% | 3.7 | Excellent |
| B+ | 77–79% | 3.3 | Very Good |
| B | 73–76% | 3.0 | Good |
| B- | 70–72% | 2.7 | Satisfactory |
| FZ | 0–69% | 0 | Failure |

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR    Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

NCR    Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation

SDF    Standing deferred (a temporary extension)

INC    Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

WDR    Withdrawal without academic penalty

AEG    May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

## Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**


**Course grades**. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf) or college grading policy.

# Policies

*Accessibility*. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

*Plagiarism*. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

*Turnitin.com.* Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

*Other academic offences*. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

*Writing Style.* The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

# Bibliography

Achtemeier, Elizabeth, "The Artful Dialogue; Some Thoughts on the Relation of Biblical Studies and Homiletics", *Interpretation*. 35 (January 1981): 18–31.

Allen, Ronald. *Thinking Theologically: the Preacher as Theologian*, 2008.

Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*, 1977.

Buttrick, David G. "Interpretation and Preaching", *Interpretation* XXXV:1 (January 1981), 46–58.

———. "Preaching Today: the Loss of a Public Voice, 1993" in *The Folly of Preaching*, Michael P. Knowles, ed., 2007.

Fee, Gordon D. *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*, 1982.

———, and Stuart, Douglas, *How to read the Bible Book by Book: a Guided Tour*, 2002.

Fosdick, Harry Emerson. "What's the Matter With Preaching?" *Harper's Monthly Magazine* 157 (1928): 133–41.

Long, Thomas G. and Cornelius Plantinga. *A Chorus of Witnesses*, 1994.

Long, Thomas G., *Preaching From Memory to Hope*, 2009.

Long, Thomas G. and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, eds. *Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice*, Westminster John Knox, 2008.

Newbigin, Lesslie "Preaching Christ Today", *The Eighteenth Joseph Smith Memorial Lecture*, Overdale College, Birmingham, 1979.

Willimon, William H. 'Preaching as Missionary Encounter with North American Paganism', *Journal for Preachers* 22/3 (1999).

Rutledge, Fleming. *Help My Unbelief*, 2004.

Stott, John *The Preacher's Portrait*, 1961.

## Web resources

https://www.pulpitfiction.com/

Preaching.com: http://www.preaching.com/

30 good minutes: http://www.csec.org/Catalog_C-F.htm

Calvin Seminary: http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/thisWeek/podcastsArchive.php?field=s&direction=a

The Sermon – a site in the UK: http://www.thesermon.co.uk/sermon/

Tim Keller http://sermons2.redeemer.com/redeemer-free-sermon-resource

Text week: http://www.textweek.com/scripture.htm – plethora of resources for preaching

Working Preacher http://www.workingpreacher.org/ Weekly reflections on RCL

The Meeting House:
http://www.themeetinghouse.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121&Itemid=3

Duke Chapel Sermons: http://www.chapel.duke.edu/sermons.html

Wabash Preaching resources:
http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result_browse.aspx?topic=697&pid=650

Discussion on the revised common lectionary: http://www.liturgy.ca/archive/LitCan_Oct_05.pdf