



BMIN 5810 Sermon Development and Delivery
Fall 2023, Thursdays 1:00-3:45

Dave Bland
Syllabus

M.Div. Outcomes:

- A. **Students will demonstrate the skills required for theological reflection.**
- B. **Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts.**
- C. **Students will demonstrate a commitment to personal spiritual formation.**
- D. **Students will demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities.**
- E. **In addition, the following more specific outcomes will also be incorporated:**
 1. To develop an approach to preaching that is holistic and not simply technique oriented.
 2. To enhance moral and spiritual development and understand preaching as a spiritual discipline.
 3. To provide an opportunity for students to reflect on the central role credibility and character play in the preaching event.
 4. To introduce the student to current theories of homiletics.
 5. To wrestle with contemporary issues preachers face in the preparation and presentation of sermons.
 6. To develop and refine preaching skills and techniques.
 7. To create enthusiasm and commitment for the task of preaching.

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs

accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Dr. Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-432-7733.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

Accessibility HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me:

Email: dbland@harding.edu

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Allen, O. Wesley. *Determining The Form*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780800604448. **Review Due Aug 24**

Allen, O. Wesley, LaFerle, Carrie. *Preaching and the Thirty-Second Commercial: Lessons from Advertising for the Pulpit*. Louisville: WJKP, 2021. 978-0664265441.
Review Due Sept. 14

*Long, Tom. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780664261429. ***The only chapters you need to read are Chapters 1–4. You will be accountable for those chapters on the midterm.**

Ward, David. *Practicing The Preaching Life*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2019. ISBN 9781501854941. **Review Due Oct 19**

Lewis, Karoline. *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2020, 978-1506462738. **Review Due Nov 16**

Course Requirements:

A. Required Reading:

1. Four book reviews on books by Allen, Allen/LaFerle, Ward, and Lewis.
 - a. Use the IDeA format for doing reviews. Here's a brief summary of the format I'd like you to use in the book reviews. Devote a paragraph to **Identify** (identify the author, other related books the author has written, and whether the book is part of a series), one page to **Describe** (summarize) and two pages to **Assess** (i.e. evaluate; use three other reviews of the book to assist you).
 - b. Limit the review to no more than four pages double-spaced. Submit online in Canvas
 - c. Allen review is due **August 24**.
 - d. Allen/LaFerle, **Sept 14**.
 - e. Ward, **Oct 19**.
 - f. Lewis, **Nov 16**.
2. You can read several articles I've downloaded on our canvas page. These are only optional readings. However, at this point you do need to read the following two articles (I may require one or two more later on).
 - a. **You need to read my short note on "Preaching and Spirituality" which is posted for the first week of class.**
 - b. **You will be required to read and respond to Will Willimon's article on plagiarism posted for week 12 on November 2.**

B. Weekly responsibilities:

1. Each week you will spend time **on-line in Canvas with the “Meditation Moment” segment reflecting on your own spiritual walk.**
 2. You do not have to watch any of the video lectures in Canvas unless I otherwise direct you to do so.
- C. Preaching Assignments
1. Students will plan on preaching twice during the course of the semester. If you are a distant student you will preach on HSTLIVE. It is critical that you have a strong WIFI connection and that you test it out beforehand.
 - a. One of the sermons must address the theme for this year: Telling the Next Generation
 - b. These sermons must be limited to 10-11 minutes (no more!).
 - c. Your sermon will be video recorded. It will be posted on Echo360. You will watch the sermon you preach on Echo360. Then you will submit a self-critique on the canvas homepage.
 2. **Remember, one of your two sermons need to be related to our theme of the 2023–2024 school year, which is “Telling the Next Generation.”**
- D. Exams
1. Mid Term taken online **October 5th**.
 2. Final Exam taken online **December 7th**.
 3. **You will take exams on-line in Canvas proctored by Proctorio. You must use the Chrome platform to take the exam. Also, it’s important that you read the following guide prior to taking an exam which gives several trouble-shooting steps for the most common problems that you might encounter, as well as detailing how to access the Proctorio live chat during your exam.**
<https://cdn.proctorio.com/guides/canvas/test-taker/getting-started.pdf>

Grading:

Online “Meditation Moments:” total points to be determined

Online Articles: to be determined

Four Book Reviews: 300 (75 pts each)

Two Sermon: 200 (100 pts each)

Mid Term Exam: about 110 pts

Final Exam: about 100 pts

CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system, or email directly to dbland@harding.edu.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327722>.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The HST LIVE orientation video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.

- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

Tentative Schedule (On Canvas Home Page)
Thursdays 1:00–3:50

Follow the schedule on our canvas home page for completing assignments.

Study Guide for Tom Long, *The Witness of Preaching*, 2016
You will be held accountable on the Mid Term exam for Chapters 1-4

1. What image emphasizes the preacher's relationship to the congregation?
2. What image deemphasizes the personality of the preacher?
3. What image tends to turn church into a hospital?
4. Which image is the best at integrating the virtues of the others and holding their strengths in creative tension?
5. Which image runs the risk of basing religion primarily on experience?
6. Instead of "exegeting a congregation" as though they were an object or a stranger, what does Long suggest preachers should do?
7. What is meant by a catalytic reading of a biblical text?
8. What is Long's perspective on doing exegesis for preaching?
9. What is the meaning of *lectio continua*?
10. At what point in the exegetical process should the preacher address the issues of the congregation?
11. What was one of the central debates that Fred Craddock's homiletic theory generated?
12. Theologically where do preachers come from?
13. When should preachers initially consult commentaries in the process of exegesis?
14. What is one important component of an effective sermon for Lowry?
15. According to Long, what role do the hearers play in listening to sermons?
16. What terms are related to the purpose of the focus statement?
17. What element does the herald image emphasize?
18. How would Long respond to the question, "Can preaching really be learned?"
19. What is the relationship between preacher, text and congregation?