



The University of Manchester



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor**

11.08.2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Contemporary Homiletics
Unit Code	260 (8260 for distance learning version)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Rev Seidel Abel Boanerges
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit considers some current criticisms of preaching and explores the theological basis for this form of communication. Students consider some recent developments in biblical hermeneutics and explore their implications for the preacher. They reflect on current thinking about sermon structure, including narrative structures, in order to identify strategies that are suitable for dealing with different genres of biblical material on a range of preaching occasions. Through watching, listening to and studying examples of sermons, students are exposed to a variety of styles of preaching. They are enabled to develop skills of sermon evaluation that help them grow in their own effectiveness as preachers. They reflect critically upon their experience in order to develop an approach to preaching and communication that respects the Christian tradition, their own gifts and the range of possible hearers.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit considers some current criticisms of preaching and explores the theological basis for this form of communication. Students consider some recent developments in biblical hermeneutics and explore their implications for the preacher. They reflect on current thinking about sermon structure, including narrative structures, in order to identify strategies that are suitable for dealing with different genres of biblical material on a range of preaching occasions. Through watching, listening to and studying examples of sermons, students are exposed to a variety of styles of preaching. They are enabled to develop skills of sermon evaluation that help them grow in their own effectiveness as preachers. They reflect critically upon their experience in order to develop an approach to preaching and communication that respects the Christian tradition, their own gifts and the range of possible hearers.

AIMS

To develop skills in integrating insights from biblical studies and homiletics which contribute to effective biblical preaching in the contemporary context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Identify and evaluate recent approaches to hermeneutics and homiletics

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Interpret biblical texts and to identify their potential for preaching

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Preach sermons that reflect a considered approach to the Bible, their hearers, their context and their own gifts

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Understanding some dynamics of communication that transcend the discipline of homiletics

Employability Skills

Graduates develop skills which enable them to listen critically to the communication of others with a view to offering constructive feedback

SYLLABUS

1. Why bother with Preaching?
2. Hermeneutics and Biblical Genres
3. Exploring Sermon Structures 1
4. Exploring Sermon Structures 2
5. Pastoral Dimensions of Preaching
6. Gestures, Tone and Passion in Preaching
7. Formative Assignment & Q&A
8. Sermon Workshop 1
9. Sermon Workshop 2
10. Homiletical Reflexivity
11. Preaching Q&A with Seidel

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

260: Interactive lectures; sermons held in seminar groups

8260: Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 260: Group work task	n/a	n/a
• 8260: Presentation	Notional 500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 260: An sermon preached in class	10 minutes Notional 1000 words	50%
A reflective commentary	1,500 words	50%
• 8260: A recorded sermon or an alternative assessment of 1000 words	10 minutes Notional 1000 words	50%
A reflective commentary	1,500 words	50%
and a learning journal*		Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.		

FEEDBACK METHODS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral feedback in class (260 Only) • Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as free choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

<p>Day, David and Jeff Astley, <i>A Reader on Preaching: Making Connections</i> (Abingdon: Ashgate, 2016) www.perlego.com/book/1490220/a-reader-on-preaching-making-connections-pdf</p>
<p>Kaiser Jr., Walter C. and Moisés Silva, <i>Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics</i> (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2009) https://www.perlego.com/book/559901/introduction-to-biblical-hermeneutics-pdf</p>
<p>Kim, Matthew D., <i>Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons</i> (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2017) https://www.perlego.com/book/1277688/preaching-with-cultural-intelligence-understanding-the-people-who-hear-our-sermons-pdf</p>

LaRue, Cleophus J., *The Heart of Black Preaching* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000)

Long, Thomas G., *The Witness of Preaching*, 2nd edn (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005)

Lowry, Eugene L., *The Homiletical Plot*, rev. edn (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001)

Mburu, Elizabeth, *African Hermeneutics* (Cumbria: Langham, 2019)
<https://www.perlego.com/book/918430/african-hermeneutics-pdf>

Quicke, Michael J., *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing Speaking and Living the Word* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2003)

Stevenson, Geoffrey (ed.), *The Future of Preaching* (London: SCM, 2010)

Stevenson, Geoffrey, and Stephen I. Wright, *Preaching with Humanity: A Practical Guide for Today's Church* (London: Church House Publishing, 2008)

Travis, Sarah, *Decolonizing Preaching: Decolonizing Preaching The Pulpit as Postcolonial Space* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014)
<https://www.perlego.com/book/879639/decolonizing-preaching-decolonizing-preaching-the-pulpit-as-postcolonial-space-pdf>

Wright, Stephen I., *Alive to the Word: A Practical Theology of Preaching for the Whole Church* (London: SCM, 2010)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC

Valid from Date (Publishing Date)