



The University of Manchester



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

23.02.2016

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Credit Rating	20
Course Unit Title	<b>Preaching Yesterday and Today</b>
Unit Code	8140
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	n/a
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Stephen I. Wright
ECTS	10

**EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

The unit outlines the main developments in the history of Christian preaching by studying selected preachers in the context of their historical background. Their approaches to such matters as the form, content and setting of preaching, and the preacher's call and qualifications, are examined. Since preaching has been seen as an important agent in Christian formation, the unit also looks at the impact of preaching in the history of the church. A Reader is provided, containing sermons and extracts from texts on homiletics of different periods, and the unit gives students practice in reading and evaluating such material. Throughout the unit, students are invited to reflect on their own situation in the light of what they are learning.

**COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

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**AIMS**

To enable students to consider the role played by preaching in the history and mission of the church and to see the implications of this for contemporary preaching.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Outline key characteristics of preaching at different points in Church history
- Demonstrate awareness of the importance of historical context in understanding different forms of preaching

### Intellectual Skills

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

- Analyse different ways in which preachers have handled the Bible
- Identify elements which have contributed to effective preaching in the past

### Practical Skills

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

- Allow the past to inform present practice appropriately
- Plan their work effectively and independently

### Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Understand the dynamics of how different approaches to preaching work as a means of communication

### Employability Skills

Being able to identify how approaches to form, content and setting affect both the practice of preaching and other forms of communication in other contexts

## SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to this course
2. Preaching In Judaism and New Testament times
3. Preaching in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
4. Preaching in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries: The East
5. Preaching in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries: Augustine of Hippo
6. Preaching and the pastoral office: Gregory the Great and after
7. Preaching in the later Middle Ages: Development in homiletics
8. Preaching in the later Middle Ages: The impact of preaching
9. Preaching in the Reformation period: The Continental reformers
10. Preaching in the Reformation period: England and Scotland
11. Preaching in 17<sup>th</sup> century Puritanism and Dissent
12. 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican preaching
13. Preaching in the Evangelical Revival
14. The 19<sup>th</sup> century: Evangelical preaching
15. The 19<sup>th</sup> century: Preaching in other traditions
16. Roman Catholic preaching since the Reformation
17. 20<sup>th</sup> century preaching
18. A crisis of confidence
19. Preaching in a technological age
20. Conclusion

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

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

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Formative:</li><li>A short essay</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>750-1000 words</li></ul>	n/a
<b>Summative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Two essays</li><li>A learning journal*</li></ul>	2000 words each	50% each 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

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	8103 Reading and Using the Bible or equivalent
Co-requisite units	n/a

## RECOMMENDED READING

Brilioth, Y., *A Brief History of Preaching* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1965)  
Davies, J.G. (ed.), *A New Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* (London: SCM, 1986)  
Dowley, T. (ed.), *The History of Christianity*, 2nd edn (Oxford: Lion, 1990)  
Edwards, O.C., *A History of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2004)  
Fant C., and W. Pinson, *Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching*, multiple vols (Waco: Word, 1971)  
Old, H.O., *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Christian Church*, multiple vols (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998-2010)  
Willimon, W.H., and R. Lischer (eds), *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997)  
Wilson, P.S., *A Concise History of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1992)

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

n/a

## PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

## INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

200 hours

Date approved by UGC

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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**APPROVAL**

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	