

Course Outline
CHMN621
EVANGELISTIC PREACHING

Instructor: Kenneth B. Stout, D.Min., Ph.D

Fall 2003

Location: Seminary S115

I. DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study of the theological, theoretical, and procedural principles at work in the construction and delivery of effective evangelistic sermons. Special attention will be given to how the gospel can best be proclaimed through the great doctrines of scripture as understood by Seventh-day Adventists. The course will encourage experimentation with both proven and innovative evangelistic approaches. The course includes a preaching lab in which students will be constructively critiqued by both classmates and the instructor in the writing and delivery of evangelistic sermons.

II. OBJECTIVES:

1. To broaden the students' understanding of the nature, purpose, and history of evangelistic preaching.
2. To acquaint students with the major approaches and methods of evangelistic preaching and to offer help in mastering them.
3. To acquaint students with the contemporary literature and the latest trends in the field of evangelistic preaching.
4. To familiarize students with evangelistic preaching as uniquely practiced in the S.D.A. Church by Adventist evangelists in recent decades.
5. To encourage bold experimentation and innovation in shaping and delivering effective contemporary evangelistic sermons.
6. To provide supervised practice and feedback in the presentation of evangelistic sermons.

III. COMPONENTS:

1. Assigned Readings: In preparation for each class, students will be given a required reading assignment. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss the previous night's reading. Normally, the first 10-15 minutes of each class will be devoted to such discussion. There will also be regular **quizzes as announced** on the previous night's reading assignment.

2. Topical Discussions: Each class will focus on a specific preaching topic. Topics will be explored through special readings, lectures, the liberal use of video and audio tapes, and possible live visits by special guests who have expertise in the area of evangelistic preaching.

3. Sermon Preparation Paper: Students will be asked to complete a brief *Evangelistic Sermon Preparation Paper* for one of the two required sermons using the prescribed format listed below on p. 4 of this course outline. The paper must indicate the ‘primary’ and the most important ‘secondary’ texts that will be used in the sermon. The paper will also require the student to explain the steps taken in moving from the sermon’s *theme* (or message) to the designing of the evangelistic sermon which effectively communicates the intended message. Carefully follow the 7 steps of the *Evangelistic Sermon Preparation Guide* (*type and double-space—*

no set page requirement; just make sure that all 7 steps are addressed).

4. Preaching: Each student will be required to prepare two NEW evangelistic sermons and deliver them in class.

The FIRST SERMON should be based on one of the **27 doctrines** held by the SDA Church, while the *SECOND SERMON* may be presented on any Biblical topic; both sermons, however, must clearly be *evangelistic* in two respects: **1)** They should either invite people to make a serious first-time commitment to Christ **OR** encourage people who have drifted away from Jesus (or been in a static relationship with Him) to enter into a full, fresh life of authentic discipleship and obedience.

2) They should attempt to advance the hearers’ understanding of the Lord and His teachings/doctrines.

The evangelistic sermon, based on one of the 27 SDA Bible doctrines, may be presented from any perspective that the student thinks is valid for his or her intended audience; one may--for example--use only a particular facet of the doctrine, rather than try to cover all that the Bible has to say about it in one sermon.

Creativity and new approaches are encouraged in preparing the sermons! Be bold and try something innovative! **“EXPOSITORY” SERMONS** (i.e., those based primarily on a single Bible passage) will be looked on with special favor as most evangelistic sermons today tend to be “topical.”

All sermons will be videotaped and evaluated by fellow students and the instructor; sermons will range from **15-30 minutes** in length, depending on class size. Students must provide their own videotape--to be used for both sermons.

Each message must be typed out in full “manuscript” form and presented to the instructor at the time when the sermon is preached in class. See the *“Sermon Preparation Paper”* for details on what to include in the sermon manuscript.

The *first sermon* serves as the midterm exam and the *second sermon* will serve as the final exam; *there will, therefore, be no written exams for the course.*

5. The Evaluation of Taped Sermons: It is suggested--but not required --that several video or audio tapes of well-known SDA evangelists be evaluated in order to gain a feel for and better understanding of the history of SDA evangelistic preaching. Tapes are available at the **Media Center** of the Library (top floor) where equipment is provided for viewing or listening.

IV. TEXTBOOKS:

1. Henderson, David W. Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
2. Loscalzo, Craig. Evangelistic Preaching That Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh & Appealing Sermons. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

V. PROCEDURES:

1. Attendance:

- A. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:30-10:20 a.m.)
- B. Unexcused absences exceeding three will result in a penalty of 2% of the total grade for each absence.

2. Written Assignments:

- A. Due at specified time; A penalty of 10% per day will be imposed on all late assignments.
- B. Should be typed in cases where requested by the instructor.
- C. No assignments will be accepted after the last regular class unless special arrangements are made in advance with instructor.

3. Dress:

When students preach in class they should dress in a manner that fits the preaching situation and the audience.

4. Evaluation of students:

- A. **Quizzes, and participation in class discussions on assigned readings: 30%** of the final score.
- B. **Two Sermons: 35%** each (total of 70% of the final score)
Sermons will be evaluated by both fellow students and the teacher using a standardized evaluation form.
- C. **Sermon Preparation Paper: (*Graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory; if unsatisfactory, up to 10% can be deducted from the final grade.*)**

D. Attendance: As per above policy.

E. Grading Scale: 95-100% = A
90-94-% = A-
87-89% = B+
83-86% = B

80-82% = B-
77-79% = C+
73-76% = C
70-72% = C-
67-69% = D+
63-66% = D
61-62% = D-
00-60% = F

VI. ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are expected to demonstrate integrity and honesty in their work for the class. If assignments turned in are found not to be the original work of students or if students are found cheating on quizzes or other work for the class they will be penalized by having the work disqualified without the possibility of makeup.

VII. THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT:

If a student has a disability that is covered by this act the teacher will be eager to assist the student in getting the help necessary to fulfill class requirements. If you have such a disability, please contact the teacher as soon as possible so that a plan can be set up to accommodate your needs.

VIII. INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHER:

Office = Seminary S231
Office hours = to be announced; appointments may be arranged through his secretary,
Bonnie Beres, in the Christian Ministry Dept.
E-mail = kstout@andrews.edu
Office Phone = 471-3217
Home Phone = 461-3356
FAX = 461-3603
Website = www.andrews.edu/~kstout

EVANGELISTIC SERMON PREPARATION PAPER

Deciding on your text(s) and evangelistic theme

1. Identify the “primary” text (i.e., your main preaching passage) that you will be basing your evangelistic sermon on, and identify the major “support texts” (no more than 5--even if you plan to use more) that you intend to refer to in the sermon, along with your main text (Remember, you are not required to use more than one text!).

2. Interpret and write out the refined message that you wish to communicate in the form of a sermon “theme” based on the text(s) that you have chosen. State the theme as a clear, single sentence.

Designing the Evangelistic Sermon

3. Study your potential audience in light of their needs, interests, cultural influences, etc.; then write a brief description of the audience! Imagine a particular target audience if that is helpful; make sure that your audience always includes those who do not know Christ at all **OR** those who have fallen away from Him and need to be brought back.
4. Explain what you wish to do to the audience (i.e., inform, correct, inspire, rebuke, call them to accept Christ, etc.); in what specific way do you want them to respond (mental ascent, “social” or “spiritual” action, walk down to the front, raise hands, fill out a decision card, etc.)?
5. Identify the **literary forms** and **rhetorical strategies** (i.e., *persuasive techniques*) which you believe will be most effective in communicating your sermon’s theme to your target audience in this particular time and place (i.e., storytelling, analogy, metaphor, induction, deductive/didactic reasoning, questions, examples, repetition, etc.)—and explain WHY you think so.
6. If you plan to use any special audio or visual aids (video projection, overheads, video tapes, etc.)--please
7. Write the sermon out in **FULL MANUSCRIPT** form, making sure to include the following basic elements): *subject, topic, theme sentence*, introduction, *transitional statement, highlights of the body of the sermon (i.e., points, moves, episodes, examples, illustrations, and conclusion*. **[Due when preached!]**