

*Course Outline*

CHMN 680

**PREACHING FROM  
JAMES & FIRST JOHN**

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

(Spring 2004)

Location: Seminary S115

***I. DESCRIPTION:***

An advanced course in preaching which emphasizes the challenges and opportunities of working with--and preaching from--specific, carefully-targeted books of the Old and New Testaments, and intentionally focuses on the development of practical strategies, methods, and skills in creating series of sermons from those individual books. During this semester, the focus will be on the N.T. books of *James & First John*.

***II. OBJECTIVES:***

1. To help students become more familiar with specific books of the Bible and how they can  
be employed in developing powerful sermons.
2. To sharpen the exegetical and interpretive skills of students.
3. To help students understand the literary and theological distinctives of individual  
books  
of the Bible and how they can and must be factored into sermon design and  
delivery.
4. To help students see the rich potential and practical benefit of preaching a series of  
sermons from individual Bible books.
5. To provide students with additional practice and feedback in the designing,  
presentation,  
and evaluation of sermons.

***III. COMPONENTS:***

**1. Daily Assigned Readings:** Students will be asked to fulfill nightly reading assignments--according to a prescribed schedule--in preparation for class discussions and quizzes. **QUIZZES** will be taken regularly ***as announced!***

**2. Oral Chapter Summaries & Sermon Outlines:** Conditioned on class size, a representative group of students will be asked to give a brief *ORAL* summary of an assigned chapter in one of the two books being studied during this semester, along with a proposed sermon outline from the chapter. Fellow class members and the instructor will offer insights

about the chapter and--in particular--provide constructive feedback on the proposed sermon outline.

The oral chapter summary must take no longer than 5-10 minutes; the rest of the time will be spent exploring the idea behind the sermon outline and receiving feedback from the class. The goal is for the student to preach from each outline after it is revised and refined. Each student will be responsible to provide typed copies of the proposed sermon outline from each chapter for the other members of the class--including the teacher.

**3. Sermon Preparation Paper:** Each student will be asked to write one Sermon Preparation Paper on one of the assigned chapters in either *James* or *First John*. This paper is to serve as a detailed written record of how the sermon was researched and designed from the assigned biblical passage.

This paper must carefully follow the steps of the *Sermon Preparation Paper Format Guide* as found on pp. 4-5 in the course outline. Each paper should be a full 6-10 pages in length (double-spaced).

**4. Preaching:** Each student will be required to prepare and deliver two new sermons in class (Each **15 minutes** in length). The first sermon must be based on a specific passage in the pre-assigned chapter in the book of *James*. The second sermon must be based on a specific passage in the pre-assigned chapter in the book of *First John*. The sermon may be of any "type" (i.e., narrative, deductive, dramatic monologue, etc.) as long as it is clearly based on--and governed by--the assigned passage. Each sermon will be videotaped and evaluated by fellow students and the instructor.

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.

#### ***IV. TEXTBOOKS:***

1. Larsen, David L. The Anatomy of Preaching. Grand Rapids: Kregel, Pub.'s, 1999 (ISBN 0-8254-3098-4 pbk.).
2. Loscalzo, Craig A. Apologetic Preaching. Downer's Grove: IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (ISBN 0-8303-1575-9 Pbk.)

#### ***V. PROCEDURES:***

##### **1. Attendance:**

**A.** Classes will meet on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m-3:20 p.m.

**B.** Students may miss two unexcused classes without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond three, however, will result in a penalty of 2 % of the cumulated grade; also, coming to class late three times is equal to one absence.

##### **2. Assignments:**

**A.** Due at specified time; in the rare case when late work is accepted (by agreement of the instructor in advance) a penalty of 10% per day will be imposed.

Naturally, the instructor reserves the right to give case-by-case consideration

to late work in special emergencies.

**B.** Assignments should be typed or printed in all cases unless excepted by the

**C.** No assignments will be accepted after the last regular class.

**3. Dress:**

When students preach in class they should dress as is appropriate for the setting.

**4. Evaluation of Students:**

**A.** Quizzes over assigned readings and participation in class discussions.

(30% of the final score)

**B.** Two sermons presented in class & their written final outlines or manuscripts.

(70% of the final score)

**C.** One “Sermon Preparation Paper” While this paper will not be given a letter grade, a **penalty of 10% of the final score** will be given if the paper is not completed in a satisfactory and timely manner as required.

<b>D. Grading Scale:</b>	<b>95-100% = A</b>	<b>77-79% = C+</b>
	<b>90-94-% = A-</b>	<b>73-76% = C</b>
	<b>87-89% = B+</b>	<b>70-72% = C-</b>
	<b>83-86% = B</b>	<b>61-69% = D</b>
	<b>80-82% = B-</b>	<b>00-60% = F</b>

**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](mailto:kstout@andrews.edu)

Office Phone = 471-3217

Home Phone = 461-3356

FAX = 461-3603

Website = [www.andrews.edu/~kstout](http://www.andrews.edu/~kstout) (under construction)

**SERMON PREPARATION PAPER**  
**FORMAT GUIDE**  
*ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT*  
(Exegesis/Interpretation)

1. EXAMINE THE PARAMETERS OF THE TEXT and explain how it relates to the *BROADER CONTEXT* of the entire book.
2. READ AND RE-READ THE TEXT USING VARIOUS *TRANSLATIONS*; check and highlight key words or interesting phrases in the original language. Identify any textual variants, problems, etc.
3. ANALYZE AND DESCRIBE THE VARIOUS “*CONTEXTS*” of the Biblical passage.  
(*Make sure that you spend considerable time and attention on this major step!*)

**Historical** - Identify the author, date, audience, and historical circumstances of the text.

**Literary** - Ask and answer the following three questions?

*What type of “language” does the author use in this passage?*

*What literary “genres,” “devices,” “forms,” or “dynamics” does he employ in this passage?*

**Genres** = parable, narrative, letter, etc.

**Sub-genres** = analogy, metaphor, simile, personification,

**Devices** = repetition, questions, lists, imaginary opponents, series of commands, examples, maxims, etc.

*How does the author express his unique personality, status, or experience in this passage--and how do these impact the text’s message?*

**Theological** - Specify what you understand to be the author’s “intent” and overall “theological purpose” in writing to his original readers.

4. IDENTIFY THE POSSIBLE “*POINTS OF VIEW*” from which the text can be examined (for example: 1 primary viewpoint that you intend to work with as you interpret the passage?
5. DESCRIBE WHAT THE TEXT IS “*DOING*” in this chapter--as you understand it (i.e., is it rebuking, encoura
6. DESCRIBE WHAT THE “*ORIGINAL MESSAGE*” of the text was to its original hearers-- as you understa
7. Likewise, DESCRIBE THE *CONTEMPORARY MEANING* of the text and summarize it in a clear, singl
8. **ENCOUNTER THE TEXT OR “PREACHING PORTION”** through probing conversation and reflection--and by letting the Holy Spirit guide your thinking. Clearly identify and **WRITE DOWN** the ideas, meanings, and questions that come to mind. Use “brainstorming” and “journaling” techniques--as helpful--to bring these to light. **(This is to be the heart of your analysis of the text and should take up at least TWO FULL PAGES of the paper’s space and length.)**

### ***SHAPING THE SERMON’S DESIGN***

9. DECIDE WHAT THE SPECIFIC MESSAGE OF THE “**PREACHING PASSAGE**” IS—in contemporary terms--and **SHAPE IT INTO A SERMON THEME!** Write out the theme in one clear, single, complete sentence.
10. STUDY YOUR ANTICIPATED AUDIENCE in light of their needs, interests, and cultural influences, etc.
11. DECIDE WHAT “**LITERARY FORMS**” (story, analogy, metaphor, deductive/didactic proclamation/le time and place; describe the literary forms and strategies you plan to use.
12. **OUTLINE THE SERMON** in detail, including the following elements:

**Subject** (*Example: the broad truth--"Love"*)

**Topic** (*Example: the more narrow truth--"The Power of Love"*)

**Theme Sentence** (*Example: "Love is a power that can change the world"*)

**Introduction** (*Example: "Our world is in need of great change and 'Love' is a power that can bring about the needed change!"*)

**Main Body** (*i.e., points, moves, episodes, examples/illustrations*)

**Conclusion** (*"So 'Love' is a mighty power that can change our world for good!"*)

If you wish to submit a full sermon "manuscript" instead of an "outline" that is acceptable.

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**PREACHING FROM JAMES**  
&  
**FIRST JOHN**  
*STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quiz and Class Participation Average** \_\_\_\_\_ %  
*(30% of grade)*

**Sermon Average** \_\_\_\_\_ %  
*(70% of grade)*

**Sermon Preparation Papers** \_\_\_\_\_ (satisfactorily completed)

**Total Percent =** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**FINAL SCORE =** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**FINAL GRADE =** \_\_\_\_\_

# **SYLLABUS**

*CHMN 680*  
*PREACHING FROM JAMES*  
*&*  
*1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN*

*SELECTED READINGS*  
*AND*  
*CLASS NOTES*



**INSTRUCTOR: Kenneth B. Stout, *D.Min., Ph.D.***

