



A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY  
IN COOPERATION WITH ABC-GI ALONG WITH SPONSORING  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS

## **C202a Introduction to Biblical Preaching**

**April 18, May 2, May 16 & May 30, 2020**

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### **Description and Purpose**

Preaching has always been valued as a matter of first importance in the church. To preach the gospel has always been regarded as a primary task of the church, one that is vital both to the health of the church and to the fulfillment of its mission. It is a truly ecumenical act, being performed by Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox pastors alike. And the historical roots of preaching predate the beginning of the church itself.

But why preach? Why do church members need to hear sermons? Why is the proclamation of God's Word essential to the task of the church? What happens when a sermon is delivered? How is preaching different from other forms of speech? Why does the world, which often turns a deaf ear to the preacher, still need his or her words? What or who is the source of authority for the act of preaching? What makes a sermon "good"? And how does a person prepare to preach? These and other related questions will be explored during this course as students are challenged to lay a solid foundation for the ministry of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Focus of This Experience**

1. To review the historical and theological foundations of preaching.
2. To explore two basic preaching approaches.
3. To learn the basic skills necessary for preparing a sermon.
4. To practice the skills required for delivering a sermon effectively.

### **Required Texts**

- Allen, Ronald J. Patterns of Preaching. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.
- English, Donald. An Evangelical Theology of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. A Concise History of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

## **Student Expectations**

1. Attend all sessions whenever possible
2. Contact the instructor in advance, if you will be absent
3. Be prepared for each class session
4. Participate in class
5. Support and encourage other students in the class
6. Communicate with the instructor, if you have any questions or concerns

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Textbooks
- Two different English translations of the Bible
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
- Syllabus, handouts & assignments
- Misc. Bible study helps: concordance, Bible Commentary (single volume), Bible Dictionary (single volume), Bible atlas, etc. Many of these resources are available as computer software, so a laptop loaded with this software would suffice.

## **Requirements to Earn Credit**

1. Completion of all reading and written assignments (including preparing & sharing specified assignments in class and evaluating sermons given in class).
2. Participation in class discussions and exercises.
3. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned
4. Bring textbooks and completed assignments to each class session.
5. Attend at least 15 of the 20 hours of classroom time
6. If absent one class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
  - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence)
  - b. if you have internet access and the class session you missed was recorded, review the recordings of what you missed before the link to them expires; if the class wasn't recorded, obtain notes from two students who did participate in any class session you missed
  - c. request a copy of the handouts & PowerPoint presentation(s) for the class session you missed in note format (3 slides per page); of course, this only applies if the instructor uses PowerPoint in the class session you missed and/or distributed any handouts.
  - d. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will most likely pertain to the class session the student missed in some way.

## **Class Sessions**

**Note: Assignments listed under each class session date are due on or before that date.**

### **Session 1—April 18, 2020**

Assignments (complete prior to Session 1):

- Read the course syllabus
- Gather the required materials
- Purchase the three required texts
- Begin reading the three required texts (see each session below for specific reading assignments)
- Write a personal definition of preaching (1-2 sentences).

## **Session 1— April 18, 2020 (CONTINUED)**

Objectives:

1. Explore definitions of preaching
2. Explore the nature and history of preaching
3. Introduce two basic approaches to preaching
4. Review course requirements
5. Build a theology of preaching (part one)
6. Share your personal definition of preaching

## **Session 2—May 2, 2020**

Assignments (complete prior to Session 2):

- Chose the scripture text or the current topic for the required sermon from a list provided by the instructor
- Prepare a 1-2 minute presentation on a topic of your choice
- Finish reading parts one and two of the book by Ronald Allen
- Finish reading part one of the text by Paul Scott Wilson

Objectives:

1. Learn HOW to prepare an “expository” sermon
2. Give your 1-2 minute topical presentation
3. Build a theology of preaching (part two)
4. Practice reading scripture aloud
5. Explore historical influences on preaching

## **Session 3—May 16, 2020**

Assignments (complete prior to Session 3):

- Finish reading part three of the book by Ronald Allen
- Prepare a 3-5 minute scriptural devotional
- Finish reading parts two and three of the book by Paul Scott Wilson

Objectives:

1. Learn HOW to prepare a topical sermon
2. Build a theology of preaching (part three)
3. Give your 3-5 minute scripture devotional
4. Practice reading scripture
5. Explore historical changes in preaching

## **Session 4—May 30, 2020**

Assignments (complete prior to Session 4):

- Prepare a sermon on your selected text or topic from the list provided by the instructor
- Finish reading the text by Donald English

Objectives:

1. Preach an expository or topical sermon
2. Evaluate the sermons of other students
3. Complete the course Evaluation Form
4. Place student signature on the Course Completion Form (if not done already)

# DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

Arrive 8:45am

9:00-10:15 Segment A

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:45 Segment B

11:45-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:45 Segment C

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-3:15 Segment D

## CLASS LOCATION

### ABC-IN/KY Region Office

Actual Address: 65 Airport Parkway, Suite 120, Greenwood, IN 46143

Nearest Major Intersection—Main Street & Emerson Avenue

Parking Lot Intersection—Main Street & Acordia Drive

Note: Acordia Drive empties into our parking lot and our office is marked with “**ABC of Indiana & Kentucky**” in teal above our front entrance.