PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Room EIF6, 24 High Street, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3EE

E: ksjeffrey@abdn.ac.uk

T: 01334 653196 [Monday and Friday]

T: 01224 274276 [Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday]

Discipline Administration:

TBC

divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

CALENDAR

Week 1: 15 August: Reading
Week 2: 22 August: Reading
Week 3: 29 August: Reading

Week 4: 5 September: Block course at Aberdeen University

Week 5: 12 September:
Week 6: 19 September:
Week 7: 26 September:
Week 8: 3 October: historical / theological essay due on 7 October

Week 9: 10 October:
Week 10: 17 October:
Week 11: 24 October:
Week 12: 31 October: critical sermon report due 4 November

Students can view their university timetable
at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages students in a sustained exploration of the theology and practice of preaching in the context of Christian worship with a view to the wider horizon of public communication. Initial investigation of traditional and contemporary theologies of the Word prepares us to focus upon the theological and rhetorical analysis of actual sermons considered in video, audio and textual forms. We will critically examine the theological frameworks within which preaching is understood, various possibilities for understanding the relation of biblical text, contemporary context, and preached sermon, as well as questions concerning the interplay of form and content in the act of preaching. An overarching question for the course concerns the role of doctrinal and ecclesiological commitments in giving concrete shape to acts of Christian witness.
INTENDED AIMS

This course aims to explore the theology and practice of preaching in the context of Christian worship with a view to the wider horizons of public communication. Focussing upon the critical analysis of actual sermons, in video, audio and textual form, students will examine the theological framework within which preaching is understood, the relation between biblical text and present context in the composition of sermons, the interaction of content and form, and the role of doctrinal and ecclesiological commitments in giving shape to acts of Christian witness.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students should, at an appropriate level, be able to demonstrate the ability to:

To reflect critically and theologically upon the form, content and practice of Christian preaching;

To deepen understanding of the theology of the Word and its formative role in shaping the theories and practice of preaching;

To develop analytical capacities for conceiving preaching within the wider contexts provided by the field of Christian theology and the life and work of Christian communities.

PRE COURSE READING AND TASK

Please acquire and read the full text of:

Please find additional readings for each day’s seminar under Course Programme
(These readings will be sent to you separately as PDF files)

Prepare a 15m sermon, on any biblical text or theme, to be delivered in King’s College Chapel during morning of Thursday 8 September (The sermon will be assessed and is worth 10% of the course grade)
SEMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday 5 September:

9.00am-12n: What is Preaching?  Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
An Introduction

Reading:


1.00pm-4.00pm: Why do we preach?  Dr Phil Ziegler
*History and Theology of Preaching in Scripture and Tradition*

Readings:


Tuesday 6 September:

9.00am-12n: To whom do we preach?  Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
*The congregation and the community*

Reading:


1.00pm-4.00pm: When do we preach? Dr Leon van Ommen

*Preaching in a Postmodern World*

**Reading:**

Richard Lischer, *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Voilence* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), chapter 1, pp3-45

**Wednesday 7 September:**

9.00am-12n: How do we prepare to preach? Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

*Exegetical and Hermeneutical Skills*

**Readings:**


1.00pm-4.00pm: How do we preach? Rev Barry Dunsmore

*A conversation with ‘seasoned’ preachers* Bishop Bob Gillies

Rev Dr Jim Gordon

**Thursday 8 September:**

9.00am-12n: Preaching in Practice Students’ Sermons

1.00pm-4.00pm: How do we deliver sermons? Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

**Reading:**


Wilson, Paul, *The Practice of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007), pp187-208,
Friday 9 September:

9.00am-12n: Who is the preacher?  
Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

*The Person and Character of the Preacher*

Readings:


St Gregory the Great, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (New York: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2007), pp206-07

1.00pm-4.00pm: Who do we preach about, in whose power?  
Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

*The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ*

*The work of the Holy Spirit in preaching*

Readings:


Wilson, Paul, *The Practice of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007), pp247-262

**READING LIST**


Craddock, Fred, *Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985)


Fergusson, David and Main, Alan (ed), *Northern Accents: Aberdeen Essays on Preaching* (St Andrews: Theology in Scotland, 2001)


Green, Christopher and Jackman, David (eds), *When God’s Voice is Heard* (Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995)

Heywood, David, *Transforming Preaching: The sermon as a channel for God’s word* (London: SPCK, 2013)


Lischer, Richard, *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), chapter 1, pp3-45


Stuart, Cristina, *Effective Speaking: The essential guide to making the most of your communication skills* (London: Pan Books, 1988)


Stewart, James S, *The Strong Name* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1940)


Wilson, Paul, *Preaching and Homiletical Theory* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2004)

Wilson, Paul, *The Four Pages of the Sermon* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1999)


**SECONDARY READING LIST**


Achtemeier, Elizabeth, *Preaching As Theology and Art* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1984)


Blackwood, Andrew, *Planning a Year’s Pulpit Work* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1942)

Blackwood, Andrew, *Preaching From the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1941)


Buttrick, George Arthur, *Preaching in These Times: Lyman Beecher Lectures, Delivered Before the Divinity School at Yale University* (New York: Scribner, 1940)


Campbell, Charles, *Preaching Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997)


Chappell, Bryan, *Christ-centered preaching: Redeeming the expository sermon* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005)


Craddock, Fred, *As One Without Authority* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1979)

Daane, James, *Preaching With Confidence: A Theological Essay of the Power of the Pulpit* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980)


Davis, H. Grady, *Design for Preaching* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1958)


Drakeford, John W, *Humor in Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1986)


Howard, J. Grant, *Creativity in Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1987)


Kooienga, William H, *Elements of Style for Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1989)


Knox, John, *The Integrity of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1957)


McClure, John, *Other-Wise Preaching* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2001)


Ramsey, Lee, *Care-full Preaching* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2000)


Smith, Christine, *Preaching as Weeping, Confession, and Resistance* (Louisville: WJKP, 1992)


Unger, Merrill Frederick, *Principles of Expository Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1955)


Williams, Michael “Preaching as Storytelling,” in Robinson Wayne (ed.), *Journeys toward Narrative Preaching* (New York: Pilgrim, 1990)


**ASSESSMENT**

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1st Attempt: 100% continuous assessment consisting of:

1. Seminar participation/contribution in the form of a fifteen minute sermon (10%)
2. A historical / theological essay (2500 words) (40%)
3. An extended critical sermon report (3500 words) (50%)

Essay lengths include quotations and footnotes.

Students should note that they will be penalised for work that is either too long or too short.

Resit: 100% continuous assessment consisting of a 6500 word essay on a topic to be set by the Course Coordinator

To view the Common Grading Scale Descriptors please go to:

- MyAberdeen
  -- Organisations
  --- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Taught Postgraduates.

The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**SERMON**

Prepare a 15m sermon, on any biblical text or theme, to be delivered in King’s College Chapel during morning of Thursday 8 September. This will be assessed.
ESSAY

2,500 Word Historical / Theological Essay

'If Christ be not raised then our preaching is in vain...' (1 Cor 15:14). Discuss the significance of Paul's claim for a theological understanding of preaching.

REPORT

3,500 Word Critical Sermon Report

You may base your sermon report upon ANY ONE, TWO OR ALL of the following readings from the Revised Common Lectionary cycle for the season of Advent 2016:

Advent 1: Isaiah 2 v1-5; Romans 13 v11-14; Matthew 24 v36-44
Advent 2: Isaiah 11 v1-10; Romans 15 v4-13; Matthew 3 v1-12
Advent 3: Isaiah 35 v1-10; James 5 v7-10; Matthew 11 v2-11
Advent 4: Isaiah v10-16; Romans 1 v1-7; Matthew 1 v18-25

You should prepare your sermon by making full use of the approaches set out in Wilson’s textbook and discussed throughout the course, paying particular attention to his model of 35 ‘exegesis’ questions found on pp18-25. The submission involves three elements:

A. The sermon itself should be written out in full and should be approximately 2000 words in length.
B. In an appendix of approximately 1500 words, describe the congregation to which you preach, and explain the approach you followed in composing the sermon with explicit reference to materials considered in the course generally, and Wilson’s textbook in particular.
C. A concise list of all sources used in preparation of the sermon, including the exegetical tools and resources used and other sources of material to which reference is made.

Please use normal bibliographical form and present your paper in accordance with a standard academic style guide, preferably the current edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.
ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
A fifteen minute sermon presentation worth 10%:
Thursday 8 September

A 2,500 word historical / theological essay (2500 words) worth 40%:
Friday 7 October, 3pm

A 3,500 word extended critical sermon report worth 50%:
Friday 4 November, 3pm

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS,
ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

Hard Copy: One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an
Assessment cover sheet, – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (for instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

Distance Learning Students Only – Please note that to submit a hard copy is not necessary; an electronic submission will suffice.

Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.
N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.