

**DR503M: Preaching:
Exploring the Theology and Practice of Christian Witness**

30 Credits – 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Postgraduate 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

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COURSE TEACHING TEAM

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Discipline Administration:

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Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key institutional policies which have been made available within MyAberdeen (<https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies>). These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how seriously the University takes your feedback.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the [University's Infohub webpage](#) or by visiting the Infohub.

TIMETABLE

Students can view their university timetable

at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

CALENDAR

Week 1: 20 August: Reading

Week 2: 27 August: Reading

Week 3: 3 September: Reading

Week 4: 10 September – 14 September: Course at Aberdeen University

Week 5: 17 September:

Week 6: 24 September:

Week 7: 1 October:

Week 8: 8 October: historical / theological essay due on 12 October

Week 9: 15 October:

Week 10: 22 October:

Week 11: 29 October:

Week 12: 5 November: critical sermon report due 9 November

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.

COURSE AIMS

This course aims to explore the theology and practice of preaching in the context of Christian worship with a view to the wider horizon 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.

COURSE 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:

Wilson, Paul, *The Practice of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007).

Please find additional readings for each day's seminar under Class Programme. These readings can be found on MyAberdeen.

Prepare a 15m sermon, on any biblical text or theme, to be delivered in King's College Chapel during morning of Thursday 13 September

(The sermon will be assessed and is worth 10% of the course grade)

CLASS PROGRAMME

Monday 10 September:

9.00am-12n: What is Preaching?

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

(Please note this seminar will be held in CB009, 50/52 College Bounds)

An Introduction and a Vision

Reading:

Barth, Karl, *Prayer and Preaching* (London: SCM, 1964), pp64-98

Richard Lischer, (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002), pp31-37. (Bonhoeffer: The Proclaimed Word)

1.00pm-4.00pm: Why do we preach?

Rev Prof Phil Ziegler

History and Theology of Preaching

Readings:

C.H. Dodd, 'The Primitive Preaching' in his *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments: Three Lectures* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1970), pp. 7-35.

Richard Lischer, 'Resurrexit: Power to Preach' and 'Preaching as the Word of God', in his *A Theology of Preaching: The Dynamics of the Gospel* (Durham, NC: Labyrinth Press, 1992), pp. 16-29, 48-62.

Tuesday 11 September:

9.00am-12n: When and where do we preach? Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
Preaching in a Postmodern World

Reading:

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

1.00pm-4.00pm: To whom do we preach? Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
The congregation and the community

Reading:

Barth, Karl, *Prayer and Preaching* (London: SCM, 1964), pp96-97

Richard Lischer, (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002), pp355-361. (Gregory the Great: Catalogue of Hearers)

Wilson, Paul, *The Practice of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007), pp89-108, 220-23

Wednesday 12 September:

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

1.00pm-4.00pm: How do we prepare to preach? Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Hermeneutical Skills

(Please note this seminar will be held in Room 711, on the seventh floor of the Sir Duncan Rice Library)

Readings:

Barth, Karl, *Prayer and Preaching* (London: SCM, 1964), pp99-113

Richard Lischer, (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002), pp316-323. (Charles Spurgeon: Illustrations in Preaching)

Wilson, Paul, *The Practice of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007), pp5-25, 39-53, 57-70, 71-82, 109-129, 133-155

Thursday 13 September:

9.00am-12n: Preaching in Practice

Students' Sermons

1.00pm-4.00pm: How do we deliver sermons?

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Rhetorical Skills

Readings:

Atkinson, Max, *Lend me your ears* (London: Vermilion, 2004), pp177-245

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

Friday 14 September:

9.00am-12n: Who do we preach about, in whose power?

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the seasons of the Christian year

The work of the Holy Spirit in preaching

Readings:

Richard Lischer, (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002), pp362-368. (Calvin: The Internal Testimony of the Spirit)

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

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

1.00pm-4.00pm: Who is the preacher?

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

The Person and Character of the Preacher

Readings:

Barth, Karl, *Prayer and Preaching* (London: SCM, 1964), pp81-86

Richard Lischer, (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002), pp69-74. (Richard Baxter: On the Making of the Preacher)

Stewart, James S, *Heralds of God* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1946), pp190-222

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Alexander, James W, *Thoughts on Preaching: Being contributions to homiletics* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1988)

Atkinson, Max, *Lend me your ears* (London: Vermilion, 2004)

Barth, Karl, *Prayer and Preaching* (London: SCM, 1964)

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, *Worldly Preaching: Lectures on Homiletics*, edited and translated, with critical commentary, by Clyde E. Fant (New York: Crossroad, 1991)

Buttrick, David, *Preaching Jesus Christ* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988)

Buttrick, David, *Homiletic: Moves and Structures* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987)

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

Cuningham R, (ed) *Serving the Church reaching the World: Essays in honour of Don Carson* (Leicester: IVP, 2017)

Day David, *A Preaching Workbook* (London: SPCK, 1998)

Day, David, Astley Jeff and Francis Leslie J, *A Reader on Preaching: Making Connections* (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2005)

Dickson, J.N. Ian, *Beyond Religious Discourse: Sermons, Preaching and Evangelical Protestants in Nineteenth Century Irish Society* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007)

Evans, William, *How to Prepare Sermons* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976)

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

Florence, Anna Carter, *Preaching as Testimony* (Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007)

Forsyth, P.T, *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind* (London: Independent Press, 1957)

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)

Hybels, Bill, *Mastering Contemporary Preaching* (Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1989)

Johnston, Graham, *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-First Century Listeners* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001)

Keller, Timothy, *Preaching: Communicating faith in an age of scepticism* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2015)

Killenger, John, *Fundamentals of Preaching* (United States of America: Fortress Press, 1985)

Lischer, Richard (ed), *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002)

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

Lloyd-Jones M, *Preaching and Preachers* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2013)

Long, Thomas G, Farley, Edward (ed), *Preaching as a Theological Task: World, Gospel, Scripture* (Louisville, Kentucky: WJKP, 1996)

Lose, David, *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003)

Meyer, F. B, *Expository Preaching: Plans and Methods* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974)

Sangster, W. E, *Power in Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1958)

Sangster, W. E, *The Craft of Sermon Construction: A Source Book For Ministers.* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1951)

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

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Stewart, James S, *A Faith to Proclaim* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1953)

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Stewart, James S, *The Wind of the Spirit* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1968)

Stott, John, *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1982)

Stott, John, *I Believe in Preaching* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1982)

Stott, John, *The Preacher's Portrait* (Leicester: IVP, 1995)

Willimon, William H, *Conversations with Barth on Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2006)

Wilson, Paul, *A Concise History of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992)

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

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

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

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Blackwood, Andrew, *The Fine Art of Preaching* (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1937)

Bodey, Richard Allen, (ed) *Inside the Sermon: Thirteen Preachers Discuss Their Methods of Preparing Messages* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990)

Brastow, Lewis O, *The Modern Pulpit: A Study of Homiletic Sources and Characteristics* (New York, London: The MacMillan Company, 1906)

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Chappell, Clovis Gillham, *Anointed to Preach* (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1951)

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Childs, James, *Preaching Justice: The Ethical Vocation of Word and Sacrament Ministry* (New York: Trinity, 2000)

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Deffner, Donald L, *The Real Word For The Real World: Applying The Word to the Needs of People* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1977)

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Ward, Richard F, *Speaking From the Heart: Preaching With Passion* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992)

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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.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

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, but not the bibliography.

Students should note that they will be penalised for work that is either too long or too short. They are encouraged to keep their word count within + or – 10% of the length required for each piece of work.

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

To view the CGS 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.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

SERMON

Prepare a 15m sermon, on any biblical text or theme, to be delivered in King's College Chapel during morning of Thursday 13 September. This will be assessed according to:

1. Clear Theme and Content
2. Format and Structure
3. Presentation and Delivery

ESSAY

3000 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

4000 Word Critical Sermon Report

You may base your sermon report upon ANY ONE SET of the following readings from the Revised Common Lectionary cycle for the season of Advent 2018:

Advent 1: Jeremiah 33 v14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3 v9-13; Luke 21 v25-36

Advent 2: Malachi 3 v1-4; Philippians 1 v3-11; Luke 3 v1-6

Advent 3: Zephaniah 3 v14-20; Philippians 4 v4-7; Luke 3 v7-18

Advent 4: Micah 5 v2-5a; Hebrews 10 v5-10; Luke 1 v39-45 (46-55)

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 2000 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 13 September 2018

A 2500 word historical / theological essay worth 40%:

Friday 12 October 2018

A 3500 word extended critical sermon report worth 50%:

Friday 9 November 2018

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit **one paper copy** with a completed essay cover sheet to the **drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds** and **one official electronic copy** to **TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen**. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Paper Copy: One paper 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 or signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** completed, including tutor's name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/). (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 DRxxxx 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. DRxxxx Essay 1.

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

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks.

Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

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

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.

RESIT INFORMATION

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

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7's are not eligible for resits.