

Reuben Sairs

Description. To develop preachers by studying and preparing for the role of the preacher. We will consider the pastor's relation to the Bible and the role of preaching in the congregation. We will learn about the sermon itself—planning, construction, and delivery.

Book: Biblical Preaching 2nd Ed. By Haddon Robinson, numerous *handouts and outside required readings* TBA.

Course:

Presentations:

Students will have weekly public speaking preparations for coaching and practice. These will be short assignments that emphasize delivery over content.

2 full 30 minute sermons will be given twice. After the first delivery to the class, we will together examine ways to improve the sermon in all its dimensions. The instructor will take pains to make sure that this process is constructive and not harshly critical. Emphasis will be on how to make the message and its delivery better. After this process the student will give the hopefully improved sermon a second time.

Study:

A weekly listening evaluation. See the evaluation sheet for details.

Reading the text and handouts and participating in class discussion.

Schedule: MWF 10:35-11:46.

Spring Break: March 20-23. **No class on March 21st**

Easter Break: April 12-20. **No class April 14, 16, 18.**

School Excursion: **May 2. No class.**

Evaluation:

Sermon Assignment: 20 %

Weekly presentation practices: 20%

Mid-Term Examination: 20%

Final Examination: 20%

Weekly Listening Evaluations: 20%

This class and the RBC Mission Statement.

“Rosedale Bible College is an evangelical junior Bible college in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition that equips students to grow spiritually and academically and to serve effectively in the church and society.”

Evangelical? A perspective on the gospel that emphasizes the need for an individual to accept God’s offer of salvation and a subsequent personal relationship with Jesus Christ. By evangelical we also imply a strong interest in offering others the opportunity to come to Christ.

Junior? Although we sometimes have older students, for the most part this course will be taught to those who are probably several years away from taking primary responsibility for preaching in a congregation. Many RBC students move into that role gradually over several years. This class is designed for students who are for the most part just starting their academic careers and it assumes no prior coursework or development. By saying this, though, the class may well be of value for those who have a fair amount of experience preaching, but want to now study it formally.

Anabaptist/Mennonite? Mennonite preaching can be distinctive in many ways: the role of the preacher as a member of the congregation, the primary place of the New Testament, the community nature of the fellowship, the historical emphasis on simplicity in worship, and the investment in practical Christian faith and ethical living.

Grow Spiritually? Like all RBC classes this one is more than academics. At a Bible college it is assumed that you are in the presence of God and working with the Holy Spirit when you engage the scriptures with a will to do so. To do well preachers necessarily need to be focused on the scriptures and be listening for the voice of the Lord in these tasks.

Grow academically? This class assumes there is something to be learned about preaching. Preaching is not merely a question of sincere intentions and spontaneous inspiration. There are books to be read, authorities to be consulted, profound ideas to process. A preacher can improve, and one sound way to improve is by disciplined learning.

Serve? By offering a class in preaching RBC is assuming that proclamation has a permanent role in the church. Sermons and congregations come in many forms, but by studying in this way the student learns to have confidence that the sermon is not dead nor is it dying. Preaching will remain a vital function for the edification of the church, for evangelism, and for defense of the Gospel.