

# Homiletics

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# Page 1: Homiletics

## Sacred Heart Theological Seminary Homiletics

### Syllabus

Homiletics is that branch of theology that studies the composition and delivery of a sermon or other religious discourse. It includes all forms of preaching mainly through the sermon, homily and catechetical instruction.

#### Learning Objectives:

1. Appreciate some of the qualities and attitudes required to effectively deliver a homily with resources to help improve the overall preaching ability.
2. Develop an awareness of the analysis, classification, preparation, composition and delivery of sermons.
3. Familiarization with the use of theological and rhetorical language to analyze your own preaching style and the style of others.
4. Apply practical skills needed to communicate the Gospel in an effective and appropriate manner.
5. Preparation in biblical theology, systematic theology, sacramental theology and moral theology.
6. Increase awareness of the tools of persuasion ethically and responsibly.
7. Demonstrate critical thinking in the development of reasoned arguments.
8. Effective management of voice and its distinct abilities
9. Develop sermon preparation and performance in invention, arrangement, style memory and delivery as evidenced by assigned computer, video, CD or taped presentations.
10. Recognize the similarities and differences between topical sermons and liturgical homilies.
11. Demonstrate a well prepared written and verbalize sermon/homily
12. Write a formal paper on a given topic in homiletics.
13. Complete successfully the weekly exercise and pass a comprehensive course examination related to the core learning outcomes.

#### Why study homiletics?

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Those who are ordained must be well prepared to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in an efficient and effective manner. Consider the various sermons you have sat through and the impressions you had when you left the Church. It takes a person of faith to teach what scripture means and to stimulate faith and persuasion to turn away from sin for the glory of God. Those who preach have a grave responsibility to teach what scripture means and to influence those who hear to follow the teaching. We study homiletics to change lives through the application of God's Word.

#### Content:

Explanation of Homiletics

Sermon on the Mount

Sermons, homilies

Spirituality

## Homiletics

Christian meditation

Archbishop John Chrysostom

De doctrina christiana

Holy Scripture

The Nicene Creed

Practical and effective preaching

# Page 2: Homiletics

## Assignment # 1

### Homiletics

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homiletics>

1. Define the term “homiletics” including all its forms.
2. What is the term used for those who practice or study homiletics?
3. What was the first form of preaching called?
4. What forms of sermons did Jesus use when He preached?
5. What is the form used by St. Paul in the New Testament?
6. What form of preaching did Justin Martyr’s “Apology” use?
7. Why is there little or nothing found about preaching in the early ages?
8. Name the office that preaching belongs to.
9. Explain what is meant by the strange feature at the time St. Chrysostom and St. Augustine preached.
10. Identify the various notable preachers of the early ages.
11. Of the number of notable preachers who is considered the greatest since St. Paul?
12. Why did Caesarius, Bishop of Arles give charge of all temporal affairs of his diocese to deacons?
13. Discuss the Synod of Trullo as it relates to preaching.
14. In the sixth Council of Arles what were pastors ordered to do if they did not know the Scriptures?
15. What were the characteristics of the preaching during the medieval times?
16. What were the prevailing thoughts about philosophy during the middle ages?
17. Compare and contrast the terms mysticism, renaissance and humanism.
18. Explain what the Council of Trent recommended preachers do?
19. Name the best known French preachers of the classical seventeenth-century period.
20. Discuss the present day preaching forms and what part Scholasticism played.
21. Identify the text that is considered the first manual on the subject of preaching.
22. What three conditions did Hugh of St. Victor lay down for sermons?
23. Summarize the influence of Thomas Aquinas, Johannes Reuchlin and Desiderius Erasmus
24. What is your personal opinion about how we can identify preachers who seek personal glory?
25. In your opinion, explain why or why not Homiletics should be a branch of rhetoric.

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Assignment # 2

Sermon on the Mount

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Sermon\\_on\\_the\\_Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sermon_on_the_Mount)

Read PP 1-8

1. Explain what is being emphasized in the Sermon of the Mount.
2. Who actually gave the sermon and who is reporting what was said?
3. How many discourses did Jesus teach?
4. Identify the best-known portion of the Sermon on the Mount.
5. Explain the relationship believed by many Christians between Moses and the Sermon on the Mount.
6. What literary evidence exists to suggest that the Sermon on the Mount is the main source of Christian pacifism?
7. Discuss the disagreements about the actual location and definition of a mountain in the Sermon.
8. What are the two viewpoints offered in Augustine of Hippo's writings connecting Moses with the Sermon on the Mount?
9. Summarize the twelve basic schools of thought on ways to interpret and apply the Sermon on the Mount.
10. Discuss your personal opinion on how you apply the Sermon on the Mount to everyday life.
11. What do the Scriptures say about why the crowds were amazed at Jesus' sermons?
12. What is contrasted for those who listen and follow the instruction of Jesus? (Mat 7:24)
13. Take a position and argue your viewpoint on Mathew 5:38-42 where Jesus tells his disciples not to engage in violence, including self-defense.

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Assignment # 3

Sermons

[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon)

Read PP 1-6

1. Define the term sermon
2. Identify the elements of preaching
3. What is the origin of the word sermon?
4. Give at least two examples from the Bible where sermons are speeches.
5. What is the term used for a short sermon?
6. Identify the other rendition of the Sermon on the Mount.
7. Name at least five preachers of the early Church.
8. What is the theological field of preaching in the Roman Catholic tradition?
9. Name at least two sermons (name and preacher) that have been written down, collected and published.
10. What has been called the distinctive doctrines of Protestantism that held that salvation was by faith alone?
11. Name the sermons and preacher of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that were noted for their “fire and brimstone.”
12. Discuss passages in the readings that refer to sermons in the Jewish Tradition.
13. List and discuss the nine different types of sermons
14. Comment about written sermons verses spoken sermons.
15. Compare and contrast scripted, extemporaneous and impromptu preaching.

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Assignment # 4

Spirituality

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirituality>

Read PP 1-8

1. Discuss the four topics that spirituality can be referred to.
2. Define the term “spirituality.”
3. Describe how some atheists define “spiritual.”
4. Discuss the cultural and religious concept of “spiritual path.”
5. Discuss why religion and spirituality have come to be separate entities.
6. In your readings, what are the consequences of quantum physics?
7. What were the results of Masters and Spielmans meta-analysis on spirituality?
8. What do your readings suggest on the topic of meditation?
9. What was the outcome of some researches on the near-death experience?
10. What has William F. Williams concluded about spirituality?
11. List the positive psychological topics associate with spirituality.
12. Discuss the alternative to materialism and traditional religious dogma that was pioneered by Ralph Waldo Emerson.
13. Explain why the scholarly field of spirituality remains ill-defined.
14. What part does spirituality play in preparing and delivering a sermon?
15. In your experience how can you detect a preacher who is non-spiritual?
16. Are we being spiritual when we ponder why we are here on earth, or when we are moved by values such as beauty, love, or creativity? Or in your opinion is spirituality tied up in practices such as prayer or meditation?
17. Discuss why you do or don't have a felt relationship with the deepest meanings or powers governing life?
18. Discuss the distinction between the spiritual and religious during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
19. Name two important early 20<sup>th</sup> century writers and their text who studied the phenomenon of spirituality.
20. Who were the eighteenth-century thinkers who often opposed clericalism and were skeptical of religion?

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Assignment # 5

Christian Meditation

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_meditation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_meditation)

Read PP 1-10

1. Define Christian Meditation.
2. Where does the term “meditation” come from?
3. Explain how Christian meditation contrasts with cosmic styles of oriental mediation.
4. Explain why the Holy See warns that there is a potential incompatibility in mixing Christian and eastern styles of meditation.
5. Explain why Christian meditation is considered the middle level in a broad three stage characterization of prayer.
6. Discuss how Saint Teresa of Avila defined Christian meditation.
7. Discuss how E.P. Clowney explained the three distinctive marks of Christian meditation.
8. How does Thomas Merton characterize the goal of Christian meditation?
9. Identify the two Old Testament words for meditation and what each means.
10. Describe the three elements in the daily life of a Benedictine monastery.
11. What does the Latin term “Lectio Divina” mean?
12. Identify Guigo II (Carthusian monk) four stages of meditation called contemplation.
13. Discuss the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius the founder of the Jesuits.
14. Summarize the meditation of Saint Teresa of Avila including the analogy of watering a garden.
15. Explain the meditative method of Centering Prayer and why it has yet to find a secure place in the Church.
16. Discuss Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Padre Pio’s meditation practices.
17. Why is the Rosary at the very center of Christian spirituality?
18. Explain the tradition of prayer called “Hesychasm.”

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## Assignment # 6

### Paper

1. Support your personal opinion and discuss whether or not there is a difference between preaching and teaching?
2. What is the overall goal of preaching?
3. Discuss your basic theology of preaching highlighting a biblical support for your position.
4. Develop a sermon evaluation questionnaire using a Likert scale that you would be useful to you in improving your sermons.

An example of a range of responses in a Likert scale: (Strongly disagree-Disagree-Neutral-Agree-Strongly disagree)

5. Develop an outline of a proposed sermon that you will deliver that includes an 1) achievable goal, 2) objective(s) 3) introduction, 4) body and 5) conclusion.

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Assignment # 7

Expository Preaching

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expository\\_preaching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expository_preaching)

Read PP 1-7

1. Define the term “Expository preaching.”
2. What other name refers to expository preaching?
3. Identify the two ways that texts are selected for exposition.
4. Where is the probable place where expository preaching originated?
5. Discuss an advantage and disadvantage in the use of the lectionary.
6. Cite the advantages and disadvantages of expository preaching.
7. Who is considered the greatest evangelical preacher of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
8. Name at least eight prominent expository preachers found in your readings.
9. Who is considered the best known expository preacher in America?
10. Why is the works of A.W. Pink important?
11. Compare and contrast expository preaching with the Seeker Movement.
12. Identify at least three biblical references for expository preaching.

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## Exercise # 8

John Chrysostom (Speaker and Preacher)

[http://newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/John\\_Chrysostom](http://newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/John_Chrysostom)

Read PP 1-11.

1. Summarize what John Chrysostom did in the early Church and what contribution he made to preaching.
2. Explain the early life and education of John Chrysostom.
3. Explain what Chrysostom had to say about abuse of wealth and personal property.
4. Describe an incident that illustrates the influence of Chrysostom's sermons.
5. What advice did Chrysostom give to visiting regional preachers?
6. Explain what is meant by Chrysostom's allegorical preaching style.
7. What is said to be Chrysostom's last words?
8. Name the extant exegetical works of John Chrysostom works.
9. How were John Chrysostom's sermons known and preserved?
10. What were the characteristics of Chrysostom's homiletical theology?
11. Describe the purpose of John Chrysostom's Treatises *against Those Oppose to The Monastic Life*.
12. What did Chrysostom have to say about Jews and Judaizing Christians?
13. Explain the influence Chrysostom made in Christian liturgy.
14. In rejecting the contemporary trend for allegory what did Chrysostom prefer instead?

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Exercise # 9

De doctrina Christiana

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De\\_doctrina\\_christiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_doctrina_christiana)

Read PP 1-4

1. How many books did St Augustine of Hippo write in *De doctrina Christiana*?
2. Why did St. Augustine write the books?
3. What were the three tasks St Augustine set on Christian teachers and preachers?
4. Summarize the historical context of *De doctrina Christiana*.
5. Explain the use of allegorical and literal reading of scripture.
6. Explain the two classes “signs” used by St. Augustine.
7. Discuss St. Augustine’s key factors in biblical interpretation.
8. Summarize *Book One* on things and signs
9. When was *Book One* published?
10. Name St. Augustine’s seven steps to wisdom.
11. According to St. Augustine what is critical to understanding Scriptures?
12. Which book written by St. Augustine discusses the relationship between Christian truth and eloquence?
13. According to St. Augustine what are the seven rules for interpreting scripture?
14. Discuss the importance of being able to interpret and teach Scripture and why it is important to the study of homiletics.
15. Describe the influence Ambrose had on Augustine’s early study of the Bible.
16. What is meant by the term “hyponoia” and how was it adapted by St. Augustine?

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## Exercise # 10

Using the Scripture passages listed below, summarize the key elements that define or relate to preaching.

2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16, Timothy 4: 1-2

Acts 2:37, Acts 2:14-41, Acts 7:54

Romans 1-16, Romans 10:17

Ephesians 4:11-13

Proverbs 25:15

Colossians 3: 16

Ephesians 4: 14-16

Romans 15:4, Matthew 5:18

Zechariah 4:6

James 3:2

1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 4: 9

Nehemiah 8:8

Hebrews 4:12, 1 Corinthians 1:17, Corinthians 12: 9-10

Romans 10: 14-15

Luke 16:31

Ephesians 3: 2-6

Mark 16:15

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## Exercise # 11

[http://ancient\\_future.net/nicene.html](http://ancient_future.net/nicene.html)

The Nicene Creed

Read PP 1-7

1. What is the Nicene Creed?
2. What other name is use for the Creed?
3. When was the Creed written?
4. When was the Creed completed in the present form?
5. How many Church leaders gathered to write the Nicene Creed?
6. What was the Creed written in response to?
7. What does the Creed ultimately explain?
8. What is the Creed based upon?
9. What does the term “Arianism” mean?
10. Summarize the commentary of each line of the Nicene Creed.

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Exercise # 12

<http://www.str.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=9370>

Read PP 1-2

1. Summarize the article above by Gregory Kouk with emphasis on “Read and Explain,” as background to completing the questions that follow.
2. You will need a Bible, a portable digital voice recorder and an audience or a congregation to complete this exercise.
3. Distribute a sermon evaluation questionnaire that you previously prepared in exercise # 6. Request your audience or congregation to complete the instrument and encourage written and oral comments about the content of the sermon.
4. Conduct independent research and prepare a sermon on the topic “Are you a Disciple of Jesus?” In doing so, reflect upon your responses to Exercise # 10 and then respond to the following:
  1. Outline the sermon, separating the introduction, body and conclusion
  2. What is the purpose of your sermon?
  3. What does Jesus say in your sermon?
  4. What are the timeless truths of your sermon?
  5. What are the marks of a disciple?
  6. What are the costs of becoming a disciple?
  7. What are the rewards?
  8. How could your audience become disciples?
  9. Build a bridge between then and now (historical and present).
  10. Show in your outline an application to change lives
5. Submit your written and oral sermon including your ten responses to number 4.