



The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO SEMINARY, OVERBROOK

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PTH 602

Contemporary Homiletics

Spring 2021



(CNS photo)

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The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications

Class Information

Mondays
1:35 - 4:15 p.m.
Vianney Hall #106



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This syllabus was last revised on 12/28/20 at 10:49 AM.

All elements in it are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances and/or at the discretion of the instructor.

Description

This course explores the history of Homiletics in the Roman Catholic tradition, with a particular emphasis on preaching in the twenty-first century.

Formation for preaching benefits from examining the work of those recognized as masters of sacred eloquence. This course considers some key figures in Church history, with emphasis placed on the contemporary teaching and example of Pope Francis. It offers the opportunity for practice focused on delivering Sunday homilies in the Lent and Easter seasons.

Typically, the course methodology will be divided between a didactic element (readings and lectures) and a practicum for liturgical preaching, as scheduled in the proposed course calendar below.

Goals

Related Department Goals (Pastoral Theology)

- The student will develop and practice skills for celebrating, proclaiming, preaching, teaching, evangelizing, listening, guiding and reconciling in the multi-cultural Catholic Christian community.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of this course, students will gain ...

1. a basic understanding of the historical development of Catholic preaching, encompassing impacts of the new digital age
 - *assessed by class engagement*
2. a deeper appreciation of the essential qualities of good preaching today, with particular reference to the approach taught and exemplified by Pope Francis, Bishop Barron, and Fr. Mike Schmitz
 - *assessed by the final reflection paper*
3. a stronger familiarity with the *ars praedicandi* related to the Lectionary for select Sundays during the seasons of Lent and Easter
 - *assessed by written assignments and progress in preaching*
4. a continuing improvement in the communications skills employed in delivering a homily, with attention to public speaking and rhetoric
 - *assessed by student/faculty evaluations and progress in preaching*

Assessment

(to be explained further during class)

Growth in the art of preaching involves both didactic and practical learning. The course will alternate between both elements, as outlined in the proposed class schedule below.

The DIDACTIC element focuses on the history of homiletics and contemporary preaching. In this learning, students have the following responsibilities:

- All students will **read** the **assigned texts** for the designated class period and be prepared to **discuss** the significant points raised therein.
- All students will **engage** the ideas presented in **class lectures** by raising critical questions and offering thoughtful responses.
- As specified, all students will complete **special assignments** on specific topics in the course.

The PRACTICAL element incorporates the didactic into the art of preaching. In this learning, students have the following responsibilities:

- During the assigned periods, students will **prepare and deliver** a 5-8 minute **homily** on the specified texts from the Lectionary, or complete a specific practicum exercise related to that day's homily.
- The class will offer "live" **feedback** to each homilist during the class period.
- The professor will provide a summary **evaluation**, in writing, to each homily practicum. Students are welcome to meet individually with the professor to review the evaluations and discuss areas of progress.

Assessment of learning in this course will be based on accumulated knowledge of the theology of homiletics and developmental progress in the art of preaching. Grades will be distributed as follows:

- (1) **Writing** (35% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine the grade based on four (4) homiletic commentaries and one (1) special assignment.
- (2) **Preaching** (35% of the final grade) ... An independent panel of reviewers will determine the grade for the final homily of the semester, as the culmination of the students' progress in the art of preaching.
- (3) **Reflection** (30% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine the grade based on a final paper (5-10 pages) that reflects on the student's growth in preaching and integrates this with an understanding of contemporary evangelization.

Academic Resources

Required Sources for this Course (info also posted on Populi)

	<p>Dailey, Thomas. "From Francis to Francis: How a Saint and a Pope Share a Vision of Preaching."</p> <p><i>Love Is the Perfection of the Mind: Salesian Studies Presented to Rev. Alexander T. Pocetto, OSFS on the Occasion of His 90th Birthday.</i> edited by Joseph Chorpenning, Thomas Dailey, and Daniel Wisniewski Center Valley, PA: Salesian Center for Faith & Culture, June 2017, pp. 19-34.</p>
	<p>Pope Francis <i>Evangelii Gaudium: Apostolic Exhortation on The Joy of the Gospel</i> USCCB, 2013</p> <p>selected sections ... online text</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1601374585 ISBN-13: 978-1601374585</p> <p>Hardcover = \$10.85 Kindle = \$9.95</p>
	<p>Bishop Robert Barron & Brandon Vogt "Five Qualities of Good Preaching" Word on Fire Show (podcast, 11/29/15)</p> <p>http://wordonfireshow.com/episode3/</p>
	<p>Pope Francis / Antonio Spadaro, SJ <i>Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Every Day</i> <i>The Morning Homilies from St. Martha's Chapel</i> Image Books, 2015</p> <p>excerpts only ... online text (also on Populi)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1101903015 ISBN-13: 978-1101903018</p> <p>Hardcover = \$10.48 Kindle = \$9.99</p>
	<p>Fr. Mike Schmitz "Telling the Story of God's Love"</p> <p>The 2020 Cardinal Foley Lecture @ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary</p> <p> link</p>

Recommended Reading:

Congregation for Divine Worship & Discipline of Sacraments. *Homiletic Directory* (6/29/2014). [online text](#)

Foley, Edward (ed.). [A Handbook for Catholic Preaching](#). Pueblo Books, 2016

Supplemental Reading (listed in order of topics in the course)

HISTORY

Atwood, Ray. [Masters of Preaching: The Most Poignant and Powerful Homilists in Church History](#). Hamilton Books / Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

Atwood, Ray. [Masters of Preaching: More Poignant and Powerful Homilists in Church History](#). Hamilton Books / Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

Cisetti, Joseph. ["On the Preacher and Preaching."](#) *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (October 2005): 22-31.

Hermenegild, Brother. [Instructions from the Saints on How to Preach](#). Amazon Digital Services, 2017.

POPE FRANCIS

Cameron, Peter John. [Evangelii Gaudium and Pope Francis' Revolution in Preaching](#). CreateSpace Publishing, 2014.

Heille, Gregory. [The Preaching of Pope Francis: Missionary Discipleship and the Ministry of the Word](#). Liturgical Press, 2015.

Landry, Fr. Roger. "Pope Francis and the Missionary Reform of Sacred Preaching" ([seminar notes](#))

CONTEMPORARY / DIGITAL AGE

Barron, Bishop Robert.

- [2016](#) – "On Preaching the Gospel" (YouTube video, 7:59)
- [2018](#) – "Apprenticing to Jesus the Preacher (Facebook broadcast, 46:21)

Gregory, Wilton. "Liturgical Preaching in the 21st Century." *The Jurist* 76 (2016): 361-378.

Dailey, Thomas. ["Preaching the 'Story of Stories'."](#) *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (26 Feb 2020).

Proposed Schedule

section "A"		section "B"	
Brown, Alexander (ALT)	Le, Phong (PHL)	Albanese, Anthony (PHL)	Key, Kevin (HBG)
DeCamp, Derick (HBG)	Okpara, John (PHL)	Clark, Andrew (ARL)	Martinez, Ricardo (RM)
Iglesia, Zinjin (ARL)	Omeke, Kenneth (PHL)	Flanagan, Shane (PHL)	Poczatek, Stanley (ARL)
Kraft, Randall (PHL)	Redinger, Loudon (LCN)	Himes, Jeffrey (O.Praem.)	Ramirez, Miguel (ALT)

Date	Class Focus	Preparatory Task
Jan 11	introduction to the course lecture – The History of Homiletics!	review: syllabus
Jan 14	lecture – research on parish preaching	
Jan 18	no class – <i>MLK service day</i>	read: "From Francis to Francis" (pdf)
Jan 25	lecture – the teaching of Pope Francis	read: Evangelii Gaudium , nn. 135-159
Feb 1	practicum – "A" preaches / "B" writes	on the First Sunday of Lent (B)
Feb 8	practicum – "B" preaches / "A" writes	on the Second Sunday of Lent (B)
Feb 15 * podcast taping *	no class – listen to Bishop Barron's (podcast)	reflection paper due by email on Feb 17
Feb 22	practicum – "A" preaches / "B" writes	on the Third Sunday of Lent (A - scrutiny)
Mar 1	practicum – "B" preaches / "A" writes	on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (A - scrutiny)
Mar 8	lecture – the example of Pope Francis	read: "Meeting God in Everyday Life" (link)
Mar 15	practicum – "A" preaches / "B" writes	on Easter Sunday (B)
Mar 22	practicum – "B" preaches / "A" writes	on the Second Sunday of Easter (B)
Mar 29	no class – <i>Holy Week</i>	
Apr 5	no class – <i>Easter Week</i>	
Apr 12	practicum – "A" preaches / "B" writes	on the Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)
Apr 19	practicum – "B" preaches / "A" writes	on the Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Apr 26	lecture – Preaching in the Digital Age <i>conclusion to the course / year II</i>	(complete online course evaluations)
Apr 28-29 7:00-9:00 PM	final exam – public preaching (special schedule & instructions)	ALL preach on Pentecost (Mass during Day)
May 5	final examination – written essay	due by email no later than midnight

Seminary Policies

Internet Use in the Classroom:

While the internet is a valuable source of information that can facilitate the learning process, it can often be a distraction within the classroom setting. Therefore, unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, students in the classroom are not permitted to connect to the internet.

Because the digital world is the environment in which people live and work in the twenty-first century, students in this course are not only permitted to connect to the internet in the classroom, they are required to do so!

Attendance

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary requires attendance at all classes at the assigned times. This policy reflects the Seminary's recognition of the vital importance of philosophy and other preparatory studies for the seminarian's formation and for the pastoral ministry to which the seminarian aspires. As a general rule, the number of absences in a course should not exceed twice the number of weekly class meetings for the course. For example, in a three-credit course which entails two instructional classes each week of 75 minutes in length, the maximum number of absences of any kind should not exceed four (4) such classes. Students with absences in excess of the limit may be asked to withdraw from the course. Exceptions to this policy are to be sought from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The instructor reserves the right to determine the number of absences which may result in a reduced grade or even the loss of academic credit, with the consequent requirement to repeat the course. In aggravated cases, excessive, unexcused absences may result in dismissal. Out of courtesy, students who are absent are asked to communicate this fact – if possible, prior to the class day in question – to the Dean of Men of their respective Seminary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to the course instructor. Students are responsible for the timely performance of all class assignments and the gaining/mastery of class notes. Students who wish to have the course lecture recorded on the day of absence should seek permission from the instructor prior to making such an arrangement.

Academic honesty

As indicated in the Seminary policy, “no instance of plagiarism, cheating or falsification of research work, examinations or academic records will be tolerated and will make the seminarian liable to dismissal.” A failing grade will be assigned where there is evidence of academic dishonesty.

Late Work - Unless approved by the instructor prior to the due date, late work is unacceptable.

Incomplete Work - Failure to fulfill any of the requirements of this course may result in an F for the course.

Exams

“[Final] Examinations in all courses are held on the dates and in the places designated on the final examination schedule. No seminarian is excused from an examination unless an exception is granted by the Academic Dean. A seminarian who, for illness or another serious reason, must be absent from a final examination may request permission from the Academic Dean to reschedule the examination and is responsible for making the necessary arrangements with the appropriate professor [or instructor]. If an examination has not been taken within two weeks, the grade of “F” will be given for the course. Extensions can be granted only by the Academic Dean.”

Seminary Grading System

“Letter grades are used to indicate the quality of a seminarian's performance in a course. Professors assign grades as the result of class work, reports, research papers, examinations, or a combination of the above.” “A seminarian's academic standing is measured by the cumulative average. The cumulative average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credit hours attempted. Grade points are not granted for Pass/Fail courses, nor do these courses affect the semester or cumulative averages.”
