



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

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PTH 602

Contemporary Homiletics

Spring 2022



(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 1/20/22 at 8:30 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) **Written Review** (10% of the final grade) ... Students will complete a review of one of the works of Bishop Robert Barron.
- (2) **Written Outlines** (15% of the final grade) ... Students will complete two (2) brief assignments on the Lectionary readings for class periods in which they are not preaching.
- (3) **Written Homilies** (25% of the final grade) ... Students will compose a complete text of a homily for Easter Sunday and for Divine Mercy Sunday.
- (4) **Final Exam Essay** (25% of the final grade) ... Students will write a reflection paper (5-10 pages) concerning their growth in preaching and a contemporary understanding of evangelization.
- (5) **Final Preaching** (25% of the final grade) ... Students will preach on Pentecost before a public audience of parishioners.

Academic Resources

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

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|--|--|---|
|  <p>NTR New Theology Review volume 31, number 1 October 2018</p> | <p>FR. THOMAS DAILEY, OSFS “Preaching as Praying: Complementary Methods for Sacred Eloquence.” <i>New Theology Review</i> 31/1 (October 2018): 11-17 online version (also posted on Populi)</p> | |
|  | <p>BISHOP ROBERT BARRON & BRANDON VOGT “Five Qualities of Good Preaching” Word on Fire Show (podcast, 11/29/15) http://wordonfireshow.com/episode3/</p> | |
|  <p>THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL EVANGELII GAUDIUM POPE FRANCIS POSTSYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION</p> | <p>POPE FRANCIS <i>Evangelii Gaudium:</i> <i>Apostolic Exhortation on The Joy of the Gospel</i> USCCB, 2013 <i>selected sections:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Homily” (nn. 135-144) - online text • “Preparing to Preach” (nn. 145-159) - online text | <p>ISBN-10: 1601374585 ISBN-13: 978-1601374585 Hardcover = \$10.85 Kindle = \$9.95</p> |
|  | <p>FR. MIKE SCHMITZ “Telling the Story of God’s Love” The 2020 Cardinal Foley Lecture @ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary  link</p> | |

Recommended Reading:

Atwood, Ray. “The History of Sacred Preaching.” Talk given at the 11th annual Preaching Seminar at Arnold Hall (Pembroke, MA) on 4/9/2015. [online text](#)

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

Pope Francis, with Antonio Spadaro, SJ. *Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Every Day. The Morning Homilies from St. Martha's Chapel*. Image Books, 2015 [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" | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jonah Brox | Samuel McIlheran | Nikolai Brelinisky | Brian Meinders |
| Juan Builes | Aaron Scheidel | Joseph Bui | Gregory Miller |
| Keaton Eidle | Drew Tanguay | Philip Cheung | Jose Palacios |
| Bernard Ekeagwu | Bohdan Vasylyv | James Joseph | Augustine Reimers |
| Santiago Izquierdo | Brendan Zehner | Max McGallagher | Jacob Sanz |
| | | | David Slusarick |

| Date | Class Focus | Preparatory Task |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Jan 20 | introduction to the course | review: syllabus |
| Jan 24 | feast day lecture St. Francis de Sales: Master of Sacred Eloquence | read: "Preaching as Praying" (pdf) |
| Jan 31 | lecture – The History of Homiletics: A Quick Tour! | optional reading: Atwood talk (pdf) |
| Feb 7 | practicum – "A" preaches / "B" outlines | on the First Sunday of Lent (C) |
| Feb 14 * | no class – listen to Bishop Barron podcast | reflection paper due by email on Feb 17 |
| Feb 21 | practicum – "B" preaches / "A" outlines | on the Third Sunday of Lent (A-scrutiny) |
| Feb 28 | lecture – the teaching of Pope Francis | read: <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , nn. 135-159 |
| Mar 7 | lecture – the example of Pope Francis | optional reading: Morning Homilies (pdf) |
| Mar 14 | no class - ALL write homilies for Easter Sunday | homily texts due by email on March 15 |
| Mar 21 | no class - ALL write homilies for Divine Mercy Sunday | homily texts due by email on March 22 |
| Mar 28 | practicum – "A" preaches / "B" outlines | on the Fifth Sunday of Easter (C) |
| Apr 4 | practicum – "B" preaches / "A" outlines | on the Ascension of the Lord (C) |
| Apr 11 | no class – Holy Week | |
| Apr 18 | no class – Easter Week | |
| Apr 25 | lecture – research on parish preaching | attend the Foley Lecture at 7pm |
| May 2 | no class - complete final exam essay | essays due by email no later than May 4 |
| May 9-10-11 | final exam – public preaching (special schedule & instructions) | ALL preach on Pentecost (Mass during Day) |

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.”
