



## **PS 6107 Introduction to Homiletics**

**Dr. Will Ryan and Dr. Steve Cassell**

## Before the course begins: Order the texts

Students may complete this course either independently at their own pace or within a designated cohort setting. We encourage each student to approach every course prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with a posture of both spiritual and intellectual formation.

At TKC, students are expected to demonstrate meaningful engagement with course materials and an appropriate level of mastery of the subject matter. Recognizing that individuals learn, process, and communicate knowledge differently, TKC embraces a variety of academically appropriate methods through which students may demonstrate comprehension and growth. We affirm that theological formation is not one-size-fits-all and seek to honor the unique giftedness, ministry context, learning style, opportunities, and vocational demands of each student.

For some students, faithful engagement may involve a slower, more reflective pace of reading, careful annotation, theological reflection, and deep personal integration of course content. For others, it may involve more extensive research, teaching, writing, ministry implementation, or applied scholarship. In every case, our goal is to encourage meaningful growth, thoughtful engagement, and faithful development as scholar-practitioners of ministry.

Before beginning each course, students are expected to discuss and prayerfully develop a learning plan in consultation with their course instructor or academic advisor. Throughout your time at TKC, we strongly encourage students to explore a range of learning and demonstration methods, including some or all of the following:

- Write a journal throughout the class
- Write reaction summary papers on each major subject working through different perspectives
- Write a non-scholarly type perspective article (such as a blog post)
- Write a well cited scholarly article or series of articles
- Write a book review and post it on Amazon
- Make a YouTube video from theological perspective
- Make a YouTube interview style video
- Teach a traditional lecture styled class on the subject matter
- Preach a sermon on the subject matter
- Lead a small group discussion on the subject matter
- Design and test and answer key on the subject area
- Lead / facilitate a cohort style back and forth discussion on the subject matter (debate)
- Create an interactive project

# Course Vision

The purpose of this course is to equip pastors, ministry leaders, teachers, and emerging communicators to faithfully proclaim the Word of God with biblical integrity, theological clarity, pastoral wisdom, and Spirit-led power. At The King's Commission School of Divinity, we believe preaching is far more than public speaking, motivational communication, or the transfer of religious information. Faithful biblical proclamation is the sacred stewardship of God's Word, proclaimed in partnership with the Holy Spirit, so that hearers may encounter Christ, be formed in discipleship, and embody Kingdom life.

This course is built upon three foundational pillars of homiletical formation: **The Message, The Method, and The Messenger**. *The Message* explores the theology, authority, and purpose of biblical proclamation, emphasizing Scripture as the governing source of faithful preaching. *The Method* trains students to responsibly move from biblical text to sermon development through sound hermeneutics, theological reflection, pastoral intentionality, and practical sermon construction. *The Messenger* focuses on the character, calling, spiritual formation, and communication of the preacher, recognizing that faithful preaching flows not merely from giftedness, but from a life being formed by Christ.

Throughout this course, students will be trained to move responsibly from **text to transformation**, learning how to interpret Scripture faithfully, proclaim truth clearly, shepherd people pastorally, and invite meaningful response without manipulation or performance. Particular emphasis will be given to Spirit-sensitive preaching that remains exegetically grounded, pastorally driven, and discipleship-oriented.

This course intentionally seeks to avoid two common extremes in ministry formation: an overly academic approach that values technical knowledge while neglecting spiritual formation and pastoral care, and an overly experiential approach that values charisma and emotion while neglecting biblical faithfulness and theological responsibility. Instead, students will be encouraged to cultivate a homiletical approach that is both intellectually responsible and spiritually alive.

The ultimate goal of this course is not simply to create better speakers, but to form faithful proclaimers of the Word who can hear the text, handle the text, proclaim the text, and shepherd people toward maturity in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Core Topics Covered in This Course

## The Message: Theology & Content of Biblical Proclamation

- The theology and purpose of biblical preaching
- The authority of Scripture in proclamation
- Preaching, teaching, exhortation, and pastoral communication
- Christ-centered and Kingdom-centered preaching
- The role of the Holy Spirit in proclamation
- Biblical fidelity and theological responsibility
- Preaching for transformation, discipleship, and spiritual formation
- Text-to-transformation preaching philosophy

## The Method: Moving from Text to Sermon

- Foundations of biblical hermeneutics
- Observation, interpretation, theology, and application
- Historical, literary, canonical, cultural, and Hebraic context
- Responsible exegesis and avoiding proof-texting
- Identifying the central theological burden or “big idea”
- Sermon preparation and workflow development
- Expository, textual, topical, narrative, doctrinal, and exhortational sermon models
- Sermon structure, flow, and organization
- Introductions, conclusions, transitions, and calls to response
- Illustrations, testimony, storytelling, and practical application

## The Messenger: Formation of the Preacher

- The calling and stewardship of biblical proclamation
- Character, integrity, humility, and spiritual maturity
- Prayer, holiness, accountability, and emotional health
- Spirit-led preaching and dependence upon the Holy Spirit
- Authentic preaching voice and avoiding performance-driven ministry
- Communication dynamics, delivery, pacing, and clarity
- Emotional intelligence and pastoral sensitivity in preaching
- Shepherding through proclamation without manipulation
- Preaching with wisdom, courage, compassion, and conviction

## Practical Ministry Development

- Developing sermons that are biblically faithful and pastorally effective
- Preaching to real people in real ministry contexts
- Constructing discipleship-oriented applications
- Preaching difficult texts and addressing cultural pressures
- Integrating theology, pastoral care, and Spirit sensitivity
- Growing as a faithful steward of God’s Word in contemporary ministry settings

# WATCH & LISTEN

**Course Engagement Note:** Some materials included in this course are assigned for instructional and analytical purposes. Inclusion of a resource does not necessarily imply full theological endorsement by The King's Commission School of Divinity. Students are expected to engage all content with biblical discernment, theological maturity, and a commitment to thoughtful reflection as developing communicators of God's Word.

Please carefully watch and/or listen to the following required lectures, sermons, and teaching sessions. Students are expected to thoughtfully engage both the content and communication methods, paying attention to sermon structure, delivery, theological clarity, audience engagement, and pastoral tone.

## Video & Audio Content

- **Rob Bell** — *The Science of Homiletical Architecture*  
<https://youtu.be/j8C4H0fK9X4>
- **Rick Warren** — *The Heart of a Pastor*  
<https://youtu.be/Qh0mJ4xR4Q8>
- **The Craft of Spirit-Led Preaching** (*Video Lecture*)  
[https://www.youtube.com/live/zXd\\_rj16G2U](https://www.youtube.com/live/zXd_rj16G2U)
- **Preaching & Sermon Development Workshop** (*Video Lecture*)  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/U6eL74sGu-U>
- **Expository Preaching Principles** (*Teaching Session*)  
<https://youtu.be/udoVU44VcUg>
- **Practical Homiletics & Communication Dynamics** (*Teaching Session*)  
<https://youtu.be/pHtYrkOIcqU>

## KEY TEXTS

- **Kim, Matthew D.** *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons*
- **Miller, Gary, and Phil Campbell.** *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake*
- **Piper, John.** *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*
- **Keller, Timothy.** *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*

## Recommended Additionally

- **Chapell, Bryan.** *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*
- **Robinson, Haddon W.** *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*
- **Gibson, Scott M., and Matthew D. Kim, eds.** *Homiletics and Hermeneutics: Four Views on Preaching Today*
- **Smith, Robert Jr.** *Doctrine That Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life*
- **The Art of Teaching Podcast** — Recommended listening for communication theory, teaching methodology, and pedagogical development in ministry contexts.



## Scholarly Article Guidelines

Citations serve several purposes in academic or scholarly writing:

- Shows the audience that you have properly researched the topic at hand, strengthening your authority as the writer and allows the audience to follow up with your resources if they want or need additional information on the topic.
- Helps to position your essay in an ongoing scholarly conversation.
- Allows you to avoid plagiarism by properly giving credit to the original source of the words or ideas referenced in your paper.

### **Why do we have to cite a certain way?**

Different academic fields place varying degrees of emphasis on different things. Because of this, different citation styles have evolved over time to meet the specific needs of the discipline. Mastering the appropriate citation style is an important part of joining a scholarly community. Currently, the Seminary recognizes five citation styles: **MLA, APA, Chicago, SBL**, with an emphasis on **Turabian which we will use as an example below.**

### **Common Elements**

All citation styles have certain things in common. They exist to help your readers identify and find your sources. Regardless of style, you will need the following:

- Author's name
- Title of the text
- Publisher
- Publisher's location
- Date of publication

TKC academic papers principally follow Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 9th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018). Please order this text at the beginning of your time with TKC.

## ACADEMIC THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS:

- All pages should be set to the standard 8.5 x 11 inches.
- The document should be double-spaced in 8.5x11 format, and the footnotes should be single-spaced.
- The customary font for Turabian papers is Times New Roman
- Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions below, the font size should be 12 points. Hebrew and Greek fonts may need to be adjusted to match the size of the surrounding English font.
- Indent each paragraph one-half inch.
- Each paragraph must have at least two sentences. A two-sentence paragraph would be rare but may be used for some purposes such as introducing a section of a paper. In general, however, a paragraph should have at least three and preferably more sentences. The upper limit of a paragraph would be approximately one page.
- Use the serial or Oxford comma, placed immediately before the coordinating conjunction in a series of three or more elements.
- Although digital citing is becoming more accepted, if possible do not cite a source according to Kindle location or other digital information. Locate and provide the print-version page number. If you are unable to locate the print version, see the guidelines in Turabian 9, § 17.1.10.
- If an online source is an identical reproduction of a print version (e.g., a journal with the original page numbers or a scan of a book on Google Books), do not include the URL. Include the URL only if the online source differs from the print version.
- In scholarly works it is most common to NOT capitalize pronouns referring to deity; however TKC leaves this up to the authors.

### Sample Footnote Forms

<sup>1</sup> G. K. Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011), 20–21.

<sup>2</sup> Eugene H. Merrill, Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti, *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011), 234.

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