Biblical Communication

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Institute of Biblical Studies
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Course Purpose

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart, and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and help fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. As an organization, we are passionate about connecting people to Christ. To fulfill our global missionary mandate, we need to be growing in our understanding and experience of the good news about Christ revealed in the Scriptures and increasing in our understanding of people (as created, fallen, and redeemed). Biblical Communication exists to help you contextualize scriptural teaching for ethnically and culturally diverse audiences as you grow in your capacity to present the Scriptures in a Christ-centered way.

Course Description

Communicating biblical truth requires a deep understanding of God's Word and an ability to relate God's Word to your audience so they may experience transformation. Building upon the Biblical Interpretation class, experienced communicators will help you become a worshiping communicator and develop audience-sensitive skills that ensure your message finds relevant true-to-life application. Through lectures and workshops, this course will equip you to lead the emerging generations to conviction and repentance of their sin and to growing belief and adoration of Christ.

Prerequisite: Biblical Interpretation

Learning Environment

The course will be approximately ⅓ larger group lecture—which will utilize online learning features in order to maximize learning engagement. This class will also spend ⅔ of time in small coaching groups (no more than 11 students to one coach) to enhance student learning. The coaching groups create an atmosphere to help with dynamic student participation. The students will be giving speaking drills and delivering a message in their coaching group.

Learning Outcomes

Cognitive (Knowledge and Thinking Skills)

1. Grow in your understanding of the good news of the gospel so you are better able to convey it to culturally diverse audiences as you launch and build movements of Christ-followers.

2. Learn a simple process for structuring a Christ-centered message (small group and large group) from a narrative passage of Scripture.

3. Help others hear the music of the gospel by learning to identify the "Fallen Condition" and "redemptive solution" in a passage and relate it to the cultural context of your audience.

Affective (Attitudes, Motivation, and Character)

1. Deepen your confidence in the gospel and motivation to share it as you see how it addresses the deepest longings of your heart.

2. Embrace the five values of Christ-centered communication in your biblical teaching (one-on-one, small group, large group).
   Formative Intent
   Obvious from the passage
   Related to the Fallen Condition and redemptive solution of the hearer
   Christ-centered and connected to the biblical storyline
   Engaging the heart and mind in culturally relevant way

3. Develop a deeper appreciation for the importance of community (learning together, sharing, being vulnerable, receiving feedback, etc.) as a key means of growth.

Behavioral (Personal and Ministry Skills)

1. Grow in your capacity to teach biblical narratives.

2. Grow in your capacity to convey Christ from the Scriptures by developing a Christ-centered small group lesson, an evangelistic presentation, a written discipleship resource, and a large group message which you will deliver and on which you will receive constructive feedback.

3. Improve your delivery skills by practicing and receiving feedback from a coach and peers

Online Interaction Assessments

Within the coaching groups (made up of no more than 11 students per coach) the coach will evaluate the following:

1. **MBI** – The students will work through a process in class where they develop a statement of the Contextualized Message Big Idea for your Audience (MBI) for their passage, either Luke 7:36–50 or 2 Samuel 9. Once the students develop an MBI, the coach will provide immediate feedback evaluating the quality of their MBI.

2. **Gestures** – The students will tell a short story in front of their peers. The purpose of the drill is for the students to practice using appropriate and meaningful gestures while speaking. The coach will give the students feedback based on their use of gestures.

3. **Launch** – As part of the preparation for the delivery of their message, the students will deliver the launch portion of their message. The goal of this drill is to continue practicing their appropriate and meaningful gestures and present a draft version of their launch. The coach will give immediate feedback.

4. **Delivery of Message** – The students will deliver a 25-minute Large Group message. The goal is to put into practice all of their speaking skills as well delivering a Christ-centered, exegetically sound message based on their passage using the FORCE values. The coach will give immediate feedback.

Required Reading

Book Chapters

Read ch. 1 in Alcántara (33pp)

Read ch. 2 in Chapell (18pp)

Read chs. 1–6, Conclusion, and Appendix 2 in Chan, Sam, and Malcolm Gill. *Topical Preaching in a Complex World: How to Proclaim Truth and Relevance at the Same Time*. Zondervan Academic, 2021. IBSN: 978-0310108870 We are excited to give you a resource that staff have been requesting for years. This course is a course on teaching stories (narratives) and there are many ways you can do that. This book will give you some insight on how to do that from a topical framework. This book has a lot of benefits that we can glean even if we aren't doing topical messages and so it will help you as you prepare any kind of message. (156pp)

Read ch. 8 in Georges, Jayson and Mark D. Baker. *Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0830851461 We read two chapters in BI and will only be reading one chapter from this book for BC. But the entire book is immensely helpful to learn how to minister to those who come from an honor/shame context. (you own this from BI) (20pp)

Sermons and Videos

Read "Of Figs and Grapes" in González and Jiménez (6pp)

Read ch. 11 in Jabbour, *Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross* (7pp)

Read chs. 1, 5, and 9 Redmond, Eric C., ed. *Say It!: Celebrating Expository Preaching in the African American Tradition*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2020. ISBN: 978-0802419200 A great overview of expository preaching with several wonderful examples. (31pp)

Watch 3D Gospel Worldview Video

Watch FORCE Lecture (will be available via Google Classroom the week before class)

Recommended Texts

Alcántara, Jared E. *The Practices of Christian Preaching: Essentials for Effective Proclamation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Keller, Timothy J. *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Viking, 2015.

Llyod-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Grand Rapids: ZonderKids, 2007.

Millar, Gary and Phil Campbell. *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake*. Matthias Media, 2013.

González, Justo L., and Pablo A. Jiménez. *Pulpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Wax, Trevin. *Gospel-Centered Teaching: Showing Christ in All the Scripture*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2013.

Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** You will engage with several chapters, articles, and videos that will aim to give you a well-rounded perspective on biblical interpretation philosophy and methodology and an overview of various biblical genres and the redemptive storyline of scripture. Not all of the required readings will be discussed during the course, but each is required background material and needs to be completed before the first class. *You must read 70% of the required readings to pass the course.*

2. **Preparation for the First Class**: Before the first class you need to complete all required reading and videos. You will need to respond to the reading guide for each reading included in the guide.

3. **Participate in Coaching Group:** Biblical communication is not something you learn merely by hearing lectures and reading books. You learn by practicing and receiving feedback. Much of the learning in this class will take place in a small group context. You will be assigned to a coaching group with 8–11 of your peers. *You may only miss two coaching groups to pass the course.*

4. **Assignments**
    i. **FC/RS/MBI:** You will share your contextualized FC/RS/MBI for your passage with your coach for feedback. [Graded for completion with feedback]

    ii. **Small Group Study:** You will write a small group study for your passage, using limiting and open-ended questions. Even though Cru has many great small group resources available to us, this process will help you see the value of good questions that explore the passage, expose the Fallen Condition, and point a small group to Christ. *This assignment must be completed to pass the course.*

    iii. **Large Group Message Outline:** From sermons to weekly meetings to other gatherings, staff are expected to know how to handle the Bible rightly and present it to a large audience. You will develop an outline for a large group message. The launch and close will be written out word for word. The rest will be in detailed outline format. *This assignment must be completed to pass the course.*

iv. **Evangelistic Conversation**: You will have an opportunity to engage in an evangelistic conversation from your passage with a non-Christian. As an evangelistic organization that seeks to give every man, woman, and child the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus, we want to help our staff take the principles from this class and have the chance to apply them in an evangelistic conversation. Using your passage, you are being asked to engage with someone with the hopes to:

- Share the basic storyline of your passage in a compelling and understandable way.
- Ask a few diagnostic questions to engage them in the story and its implications.
- Seek to use your passage to then share the gospel.

Afterward, you will write up a summary of how it went, also describing your personal experience using this method of evangelism. *This assignment must be completed to pass the course.*

v. **Large Group Message Delivery:** You will deliver a 25-minute large group message. This will be done live in front of your coaching group and will be graded by your coach. Your message will be evaluated based on the FORCE values. *This assignment must be completed to pass the course.*

Course Grading Scale

Reading	20 %
Small Group Study	15 %
Large Group Message Outline	15 %
Evangelistic Conversation	15 %
Large Group Delivery	35 %
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

94–100 A	80–81 C+
92–93 A-	74–79 C
90–91 B+	72–73 C-
84–89 B	65–71 D
82–83 B-	0–65 F

****Note: You need a C- or better to pass this class.**