

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Public Speaking

Course Lecturer: Haddon W. Robinson, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Introduction to Public Speaking*. This course is based on a series of lectures given by Dr. Haddon W. Robinson, who held the title of Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and, though now deceased, is widely regarded as an expert in the area of preaching. Dr. Robinson was named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world in a 1996 Baylor University poll. This course provides a thorough perspective on several important, practical, and effective concepts in public speaking.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Have something important to say to your audience.
- Arrange material so listeners will receive it.
- Understand and apply the theory behind speaking as listeners like it.
- Understand the five steps in preparing a speech that listeners like.

Course Lecturer



Haddon W. Robinson, PhD (1931-2017)

Education:

- University of Illinois, PhD
- Southern Methodist University, MA
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM

Teaching Career:

- Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Senior Director of the Doctor of Ministry program and Interim President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- President, Denver Seminary
- Professor of Homiletics, Dallas Theological Seminary

- Professor of Speech, University of Illinois
- Teacher, preacher, and lecturer at churches and campuses on six continents

Other Career Highlights:

- Known worldwide as a phenomenal expository preacher, teacher, and communicator of God’s Word
- Named among *Christianity Today International’s* “Top 25 Most Influential Preachers from 1956-2006”
- Named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world (1996)
- 2008 Living Legend Award, E.K. Bailey Ministries
- Director, Dallas Youth for Christ
- General Director, Christian Medical and Dental Society
- Cohost, *Discover the Word* radio program, a worldwide ministry airing on over 400 stations
- President, Evangelical Theological Society (1984)
- Executive committee, Evangelical Theological Society

Publications:

- Prolific writer, authoring works for a wide range of publications, including *The American Lutheran Magazine*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *Christianity Today*, *Moody Monthly*, and *Leadership and Decision*
- Editor for the *Christian Medical Society*, the *Theological Annual*, and *PreachingToday.Com*
- Writer for *Our Daily Bread*
- Author of several books, including *Decision Making By the Book*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *What Jesus Said About Successful Living*, with his most impacting work being *Biblical Preaching*, a text used at more than 100 seminaries and Bible colleges in North America and around the world

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.

- **Lectures:** 20-30 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
 3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.

Optional Resources

If you suffer from public speaking or performance anxiety, we recommend the following course from SpeakMeister: *Master Your Public Speaking Fear*, a highly interactive and engaging course designed specifically for anyone with public speaking or performance anxiety. The course is especially valuable for those wanting to enter ministry, but who have a fear of speaking in public or in groups. The course content is based on latest research in neuroscience and cognitive-behavioral psychology.

What You'll Learn:

- How to manage public speaking or performance anxiety
- The mechanics of fear and how to control your nervous system
- What causes your anxiety to escalate and how to control it

To purchase the course, visit the following link: <https://speakmeister.com/edu/product/master-your-public-speaking-fear/>

Please note: *Master Your Public Speaking Fear* is an optional, supplemental course and is not free of charge.