



COURSE SYLLABUS

HR504: Expository Preaching

Course Lecturer: Haddon W. Robinson, PhD

Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching and
Former President at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Course Description

Preaching is the primary way God has appointed for the teaching of the truths of His Word. Preaching done well honors God, expounds the Bible, and equips its hearers for spiritual growth and fruitful ministry. But those who preach must make a study of the art. Dr. Haddon Robinson, professor for this course, taught preaching skills for more than five decades and in this course he offers tried and proven methods that have trained many who are either preparing for or are active in various areas of ministry. By focusing on the world of the Bible, the mindset of the expositor, and the development of teachable ideas, Robinson leads the student to the preparation and presentation of effective sermons.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

- Understand the basic elements in sermon construction and what they should accomplish—introduction, central idea (based on an exegetical idea), transitions, illustrations, development of the sermon, and conclusion.
- Build a bridge between the ancient world of the Bible and the contemporary world of today's audience.
- Define and practice expository preaching.
- Apply three developmental questions to the study of a text of Scripture.
- Discover the main idea in any given passage of Scripture.
- Develop sermons around main ideas of Bible passages.
- Define both exegetical idea and homiletical idea, understanding the difference.
- Understand and apply good communication models.
- Explain the difference between inductive and deductive sermons.
- Generate an effective sermon outline.
- Write and deliver an expository sermon.

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

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

Online Professor

If you are taking this course for credit, CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as the online professor for this course. This professor will contact you upon enrollment in the course and will guide your study. Your online professor will be available to you by email and, at set times, by chat room or other real-time technology. Your online professor will do the following in order to stimulate student involvement and facilitate effective learning:

- Evaluate and assign grades to all coursework.
- Provide assistance with technological problems that may occur.
- Answer questions that may arise.
- Issue your final grades.

Course Texts

Required:

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student’s work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar’s Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Requirements

1. **Time:** The student is required to spend a minimum of 120 hours in this course. All course requirements must be completed within 6 months of enrolling in the course.
2. **Recorded Lectures:** Each of the lessons in this course features one or more video lectures of approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length delivered by Dr. Haddon W. Robinson. These instructional lectures are required and can be listened to as many times as needed. The written text of the lectures, as well as a guided outline to assist in note taking, are made available in PDF format. There are 20 lectures in this course.
3. **Reading:** Study assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the lesson in which they are assigned.
4. **Sermon Project:** During the course, you will choose a Scripture passage (your passage should be a complete unit of thought), conduct research, engage in study, prepare a sermon outline, and write a finished sermon to be delivered in an approximately 20- to 25-minute timeframe. You will turn in the sermon outline in Lesson 8 of the course (see details in Lesson Topics and Assignments below) and the written manuscript during or before Lesson 10 of the course. Your sermon should have an introduction that gains attention, surfaces a need and introduces the first movement or the idea. It must demonstrate unity, order, and progress. Any sources used must be appropriately footnoted. The project will be graded by your online instructor in accordance with the sermon-grading rubric.

Prior to the end of the course, you must deliver your sermon to a church congregation, a small group, or even a family group.

5. **Quizzes:** You will take a 10-question, multiple-choice quiz at the end of each lesson. The questions will be based on both the lectures and the assigned chapter from the textbook. There is a remediation feature built into all quiz questions that allows you to review questions you missed and locate the specific section of the lecture or reading from which the question was drawn. Once you have reviewed the question again, you can attempt to answer a second time. If you are correct, you will receive half of the normal credit for that question. If you do not attempt to answer the second time, you will not receive credit for that question. You will be given only one attempt to take each quiz. All quizzes will be graded automatically.
6. **Final Exam:** At the end of the course, you will take a 60-question, multiple-choice final exam. The questions will be based on both the lectures and the assigned reading from the textbook. The same remediation feature present in the quizzes will also be present in the final exam. You will be given only one attempt to take the final exam and it will be graded automatically when you submit it.
7. **Reflection:** You will be required to keep an online journal/blog for recording thoughts and Discussion Forum answers as you go through the course. The purpose of this writing is to help you reflect on what you are learning, what you believe, and where you may be challenged in your thinking and your life by what is studied in this course. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth.

Course Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Sermon Project (broken down as follows):	40% of Course Grade
Outline - 30%	
Completed Final Sermon - 60%	
Sermon Presentation Validation - 10%	
Quizzes + Final Exam	30% of Course Grade
Reading	20% of Course Grade
Blog/Discussion Questions	10% of Course Grade
Total	100%

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.

Optional Resource

If you suffer from public speaking or performance anxiety, CUGN recommends 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.

Lesson Topics and Assignments

Lesson 1:

- View Lectures 1 and 2.
- Read chapter 1 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Choose Scripture passage for sermon. Your passage should be a complete unit of thought.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 2:

- View Lectures 3 and 4.
- Read chapter 2 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 3:

- View Lectures 5 and 6.
- Read chapter 3 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 4:

- View Lectures 7, 8, and 9.
- Read chapter 4 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 5:

- View Lecture 10.
- Read chapter 5 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 6:

- View Lectures 11 and 12.
- Read chapter 6 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 7:

- View Lectures 13 and 14.
- Read chapter 7 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.

Lesson 8:

- View Lecture 15.
- Read chapter 8 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.
- Finalize and submit sermon project outline. At the top of the outline, write the following: subject, complement, exegetical idea, homiletical idea (big idea), and purpose. Include transitions between each major Roman Numeral.

Lesson 9:

- View Lectures 16 and 17.
- Read chapter 9 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.
- Write first draft of sermon project. At the top of the manuscript, write the following: subject, complement, exegetical idea, homiletical idea (big idea), and purpose. Your sermon should have an introduction that gains attention, surfaces a need and introduces the first movement or the idea.

Lesson 10:

- View Lectures 18, 19, and 20.
- Read chapter 10 in *Biblical Preaching*.
- Take the lesson quiz.
- Think about answers to Discussion Questions.
- Record thoughts in journal or blog, including a well-developed answer to one of the Discussion Questions.
- Complete and submit sermon project. At the top of the manuscript, write the following: subject, complement, exegetical idea, homiletical idea (big idea), and purpose.
- Deliver sermon to a church or small group.

Lesson 10 Follow-Up:

- Complete validation form for assigned readings.
- Complete and post all journal/blog entries.
- Complete validation form for your Sermon Presentation
- Complete and submit course survey form.