

COURSE SYLLABUS

ML514: Preaching Practicum

Course Description

The Preaching Practicum is designed to allow the student to practice the concepts learned in ML506 *Biblical Preaching: A Pastor's Look at Homiletics* and ML513 *Expository Preaching*. Under the supervision of an “effective preacher” and a CUGN online professor, the student will prepare and deliver three sermons, one of which will be recorded and submitted for grading.

Course Objectives

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

- Identify strengths in the sermon delivery of experienced preachers
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in personal sermon writing and delivery
- Hone the ability to write an effective outline
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying exegetical and homiletical techniques
- Become more effective in writing and delivering expository sermons

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.

Online Professor

CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as the online professor for this course. This professor will evaluate the work you complete for the practicum and provide feedback designed to help you learn and grow in your ability to become a more effective preacher. Your online professor will be available to you by email and, at set times, by chat room or other real-time technology. He/she will do the following:

- Evaluate and assign grades to all coursework.
- Answer questions that may arise.
- Issue your final grades.

View [CUGN Academic Policies](http://www.cugn.org)
www.cugn.org

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.

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. **Duration:** The practicum will be three months long, beginning at any time convenient to both the student and the effective preacher and ending ninety (90) days thereafter.
2. **Supervision:** The student will work under the direction of an effective preacher who will offer guidance in sermon preparation and delivery and will provide an example of well-crafted, well-delivered sermons. The effective preacher must meet CUGN’s Effective Preacher Qualifications. Please view this brief description of criteria the effective preacher should meet and review them with the preacher you would like to work with before asking him/her to sign the Effective Preacher Contract. Both of these can be found in Appendix A of this syllabus. See Appendix A “Securing an Effective Preacher” for details about securing your effective preacher.
3. **Sermons (listening):** The student will listen to at least seven sermons (this is a minimum; the student may listen to more if desired) delivered by his/her effective preacher and others during the practicum period. The student will submit 250-word summaries of five of those sermons. At least two of the summarized sermons must be delivered by the student’s effective preacher.
4. **Sermons (presenting):** The student will prepare and deliver three sermons and will submit outlines of all three sermons, including a succinct thesis statement for each, to the CUGN online professor.
5. **Sermon (video):** The student will record a video version of one of the three sermons delivered and submit (by DVD or download) to the CUGN online professor.
6. **Bible Study (teaching):** The student will prepare and teach three Bible study sessions and will submit outlines of all three studies, including a succinct thesis statement for each, to the CUGN online professor.

7. **Bible Study (reporting):** The student will submit a short paper (750-1,000 words) describing the Bible study sessions, audience, response of students, and overall effectiveness of the teaching. This report will be submitted to the CUGN online professor.

Practicum Grading

Sermon listening summaries	10%
Sermon outlines/thesis statements	25%
Sermon delivery video	40%
Bible study outlines/thesis statements	10%
Bible study report paper	15%
Total	100%

Appendix A: Effective Preacher Materials

Securing an Effective Preacher

Carefully read the following steps to securing an effective preacher for ML514 *Preaching Practicum*:

****Please note:** Your effective preacher must be based out of a church in a location geographically near to you. This course requires that you interact with the effective preacher *in person* on a regular basis, so choose someone with whom that is possible.

1. Review the Effective Preacher Qualifications. CUGN requires that your effective preacher meet the qualifications identified in the “Effective Preacher Qualifications” section of this syllabus (see below).
2. Once you have identified a preacher in your area who you believe meets these qualifications and whom you are interested in working with, contact him/her by phone or email, identify the nature of your request, and ask to schedule an appointment to meet in person to further discuss the details of your request.
3. Meet with the preacher to discuss the practicum requirements and Effective Preacher Qualifications. Bring with you a copy of this syllabus, including the copy of the “Effective Preacher Contract” (see below). Once you confirm that he/she meets the qualifications, further discuss the Preaching Practicum course with him/her (show him/her the syllabus). If, after discussion, you determine that the preacher does *not* fulfill the Effective Preacher Qualifications, thank him/her for his/her time. You will need to work to identify another preacher in your area who does fulfill the qualifications.
4. Once you have found a preacher who meets the qualifications and is willing to work with you, present him/her with the Effective Preacher Contract. After both you and the effective preacher have signed the contract, make a copy for your effective preacher and give it to him/her, and fax or scan and send the contract to the CUGN Registrar’s Office (registrar@cugn.org). Keep the original copy for your records.
5. Next, work with your effective preacher to create a schedule that will allow you to fulfill the requirements of the practicum. Remember, the effective preacher is not the *teacher* for your practicum. He/she will guide you as you prepare your outlines and sermons, but your assignments should ultimately reflect what you have learned in your CUGN coursework.

Effective Preacher Qualifications

Choose an effective preacher who has:

- A careful and respectful exegetical approach to the biblical text
- An awareness of how that text legitimately applies in today’s culture
- The ability to convey the true meaning of the biblical text in a convincing way for people in the pew today

If the preacher meets these criteria, we would also assume that he/she holds a high view of Scripture as the Word of God and also understands both the biblical context (historical and cultural) as well as the context of today’s world in preparing a sermon from the chosen text.

Effective Preacher Contract

(Students, give this contract to your “Effective Preacher” for the Preaching Practicum. Upon signature, give one copy to your effective preacher, one copy to CUGN, and keep one copy for your records.)

Thank you for your involvement in this student’s CUGN coursework. As the student’s chosen “effective preacher” for his/her Preaching Practicum, he/she will need the following support from you:

Sermons (listening): The student will be required to listen to sermons delivered by you and write 250-word summaries of at least two of your sermons.

Sermons (presenting): The student will arrange to prepare and preach three sermons before some group of no less than 12 adults in the congregation, one of which will be video-recorded and submitted to CUGN for grading. Please note: This is NOT required to take place during the normal church service (though it certainly could, if you are willing). Before delivering the sermons, the student will be required to prepare and submit to CUGN an outline for each sermon. These outlines should also be vetted by you.

Listeners to the sermons will be asked to complete a very brief questionnaire for each sermon. The questionnaire can be found in Appendix B at the end of the course syllabus.

Bible Study (teaching): The student will be required to prepare and teach three Bible study sessions. Before teaching the Bible study sessions, the student will be required to prepare and submit to CUGN an outline for each session. These outlines should also be vetted by you.

One-on-one Meetings: There is no set requirement for how many times the student must meet with you, but we highly encourage regular (once per week) meetings between you and the student. The student will have a CUGN online professor to steer the direction of his/her work, but will still look to you for guidance, and we also recommend that you review the student’s sermon outlines with him/her before the sermon delivery.

Duration: The duration of the student’s Preaching Practicum is to be 90 days. Therefore, by agreeing to work with the student as his/her effective preacher, you are committing to working with him/her for that period of time.

Your signature below indicates that you agree to assist the student to the best of your ability in the ways outlined above.

Effective Preacher Signature

Effective Preacher Name (printed)

Date

Student Signature

Student Name (printed)

Date

Appendix B: Listener Questionnaire

Students, print at least ten copies of this questionnaire for each of the three sermons you deliver. Before you deliver the sermon, you or someone else, should distribute the questionnaire to at least ten of your listeners and they should be given brief instructions for completing it and turning it in at the end. (Keep in mind, you may also need to distribute writing utensils to each person.) Do not give the questionnaire to relatives and friends only.

You are not required to submit the completed questionnaires to CUGN, but please use the feedback in any way that might help you improve your preaching. Consider sharing the feedback with both your CUGN online professor and your Effective Preacher.

Sermon Evaluation

You can help the preacher by giving some basic feedback. Please take a few minutes after the sermon to evaluate its impact for you. Simply check one of the three boxes for each of the two criteria of an effective sermon. You may also add specific comments in the boxes if you would like:

This sermon helped me:	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful
Understand the biblical text better			
Understand how God wants me to respond in daily life			