

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Introduction to Public Speaking

Course Lecturer: Haddon W. Robinson, PhD

### Course Description

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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

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

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

### Course Lecturer

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*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

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The lecture content for each lesson is provided in three easy-to-use formats: video, audio, and PDF text. Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

## Optional Resources

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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.