

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# 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

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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

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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.

## 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

## Recommended Reading

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Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

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

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. 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, activities, etc. that students may use to supplement their learning.

## Course Requirements

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

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
  - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
  - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
  - **Lectures:** 10-20 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. 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 Resource

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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.