



Grace Theological Seminary
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM
 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590,
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Course Title: PM 811 Creativity and Freshness in Preaching

Date: July 30-August 3, 2007

Time: 9:00-12:00, 1:30-4:30. Note: we will end by 3:30 on Friday.

Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs
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Course Description: This course focuses more on the art of homiletics than the science of exposition. It centers more on innovative and attractive means of sermon delivery while seeking to remain true to the Biblical text. The theory, theology, and practice of creativity will be considered with emphasis directed toward praxis, the increase of creativity and its usage in sermons.

Course Goals:

Knowledge

- Review Haddon Robinson's method of preparation for expository preaching.
- Consider a basic theology of creativity.
- Summarize biblical models of creativity.
- Understand theories of creative thinking.
- Summarize changes in N. American culture which imply the need for creativity.
- Comprehend literary features of biblical genres.

Performance

- Exegete the literary/rhetorical aspects of texts as well their ideational aspects.
- Preach a sermon which experiments with an atypical sermon form.
- Retell a parable in modern setting.
- Practice brainstorming, mind mapping, and other methods of stirring up creative thinking.
- Read Scripture publicly with appropriate and meaningful delivery.
- Use concrete, image laden language.
- Plan a creative sermon series using feedforward.

Affective

- Value creativity in preaching.
- Give yourself permission to experiment outside of your comfort zone.
- Support classmates.
- Honor our great God, the Creator.
- Gain confidence in your creative, expository preaching skills.

Pre-Course RequirementsReading:

Arthurs, *Preaching with Variety: How to Recreate the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Card, Michael. *Scribbling in the Sand: Christ and Creativity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Day, David. *Preaching With All You've Got: Embodying the Word*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006.

Hendricks, Howard. *Color Outside the Lines: A Revolutionary Approach to Creative Leadership*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching With Freshness*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1997.

Miller, Mark. *Experiential Storytelling: (Re)Discovering Narrative to Communicate God's Message*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Von Oech, Roger. *A Whack on the Side of the Head: How You Can Be More Creative*, 3rd ed. New York: Warner, 1998.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination*. Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1994.

****Note:** You do not need to bring these books to class, but you must hand in the reading report on the first day of class.

****Note:** D. Min. students should read all of the above, **plus 600 pages** of their choice from the list in this syllabus, "For Further Reading."

Writing (all students): Using the sources you have read for this courses, write a short research/application paper (5 page max., double spaced, 12 pt. font). Due the first day of class:

- Define creativity (approx. ½ page).
- Discuss two ways to enhance creative thinking (approx. 2 pp.).
- Apply these to preaching (approx. 2 pp.).

Oral Presentation (for D. Min. only): make a brief presentation on *either* (1) a theology of creativity, or (2) biblical models of creative communication.

- Eight minutes *maximum*. Strictly enforced.
- Include visual communication (such as power point, handouts, overhead, or objects).
- Presentations will be made at the beginning of each day's morning session including Monday, day one. Come prepared.
- Grading:
 - Stay within the time limit. Three point penalty for every 30 seconds over.
 - Organization: simple and clear.
 - Mature thought: evidence of reading, thinking, and synthesis.
 - Delivery: presented with energy and poise; visual communication simple and well executed.

Mid-Course Requirement (all students):

Parable

- Choose either Matthew 18:21-35 (unmerciful servant), Luke 18:9-14 (tax collector and Pharisee), or Luke 6:46-49 (wise and foolish builders).
- Imaginatively re-tell the parable in a modern setting. Use either first-person or third-person perspective.
- Your goal is to communicate the theology of the parable (including your big idea) through the beguiling form of story.
- Time limit = 7 minutes max. Three point penalty for every 30 seconds over.
- Turn in a manuscript on the day you speak. Place your big idea at the top of page 1.
- See the sample in this syllabus.
- No notes.

Post-Course Requirements (all students):

Creative Sermon

- Send a video (VHS or DVD) to Dr. Arthurs by Oct. 5 of an expository sermon or lesson preached in an actual ministry setting.
- Employ at least two creative methods/forms discussed in class (story, visuals, dialogue, sensory, etc.). The use of these methods must be substantive. They must be part of the fabric of the sermon, not merely "add-ons."
- If you would like the sermon and evaluation returned, include a SASE.
- Grading:
 - Exegesis: rigorous study, accurate and clear central idea?
 - Organization: clear?
 - Language: adapted for oral communication, concrete?
 - Delivery: passionate, conversational?
 - Creativity: well practiced, original, appropriate?

Sermon Series

- Send a 2-3 page summary of a sermon series you would like to preach. Due Oct. 5.
- Create this series using a feedforward team.
 - Utilize the team to help you generate creative ideas.

- Utilize them to help you analyze your audience in terms of Robinson's three developmental questions.
- Describe in 1 page how you formed and used this team.
- The series should have 4-8 parts/weeks.
- See sample in this syllabus.

Grading:

- Reading Report 10%
- Paper on Creativity 20% for Master's students
10% for Doctoral students
- Oral Presentation (D. Min. only) 10%
- Parable 20%
- Sermon 30%
- Sermon Series 20%

Schedule:

Date	Lecture/Discussion/Activities	Work Due
July 30	Course Intro. Review of Robinson's homiletic. N. American Culture and the need for creativity. Creativity in the Text.	Reading Report. Paper: "Creativity." D. Min. presentations: Theology of Creativity/Biblical Models
July 31	Tools for creativity	D. Min. presentations: Theology of Creativity/Biblical Models.
August 1	Methods of creative communication.	D. Min. presentations: Theology of Creativity/Biblical Models
August 2	Methods of creative communication.	D. Min. presentations: Theology of Creativity/Biblical Models Public Reading of Scripture (time permitting)
August 3	Course wrap up.	Parables

Parable (Sample)
“The “Parable of the Beach Bash”
Luke 14: 15-23

Big Idea: If you want to enjoy the party, you've got to say yes to the host.

The Host family just moved into an exclusive neighborhood in the suburbs. Before long they registered their kids for the neighborhood swim team, and they found out that not only was it good exercise for the kids, but it was a great place to meet people. One of the traditional social events was a monthly party at the community pool. The Hosts were invited to attend the first one of the season. It was quite an event. Kids were in their Speedo suits, taking their racer's stance, diving in, doing laps against each other. The dads gathered around the grill, marinating chicken breasts and grilling steaks as they talked about their latest projects at work, their search for a new BMW, and the performance of their stocks. The women sat around several tables, sipping on wine, talking about vacation plans and their kids success at school. Though they felt a little out of place, this new family enjoyed the party and made some new friends.

Through a set of unusual circumstances, the Hosts ended up as volunteers to host the next monthly pool party. They were responsible for buying the food and setting up for the big event. This was a big deal for them, and because they were new and didn't want to look cheap or cheesy, so they went all out as they planned the menu and created a fun beach theme for the party. Mrs. Host went shopping at the Organic Food Store – a little beyond their budget, but she wanted to make a good impression. Mr. Host stopped by the store to pick up some fine wines and plenty of drinks for the kids. About a week in advance, the Hosts sent out an email to the Swim Team distribution list, giving them the details of the Beach Bash on Saturday. They asked for an RSVP by Thursday, just so they'd be sure they'd have an accurate count.

Much of that week was spent in preparation for the party. Favors were made, more food was purchased, and they even bought some more stylish swimsuits for Mr. and Mrs. Host. But, by Wednesday night, there were still no responses from the team. Mr Host sent out a quick reminder to everyone before he left for work on Thursday.

Well, as the day wore on, some replies finally began to trickle in. “Sorry, we can't make it – John's got to work on a proposal at the office all weekend so I'm taking the kids with me to my parents.” “Oh, we'll be out of town at my niece's wedding.” “Sorry, Tom's putting a new deck on the house and the kids have a soccer game.” Email after email made it clear – no one was going to make it.

Mrs Host was fighting back tears. They had bought all of this food, and done all this preparation. What were they going to do? She called her husband with the report. “Honey, no one's coming to the party.” “What?!! You've gotta be kidding me!! I can't believe it!!” When he cooled down, he thought for a moment. “Fine, then. Here's what we'll do.”

When Mr Host got home, the family went and posted signs on the bulletin boards of the low income housing unit just a mile or two away. They also drove to a shopping plaza where lots of Mexican immigrants hang out and they passed out fliers for the Beach Bash. They also posted some others on the glass door of a local laundromat and on the wall of the unemployment office..

Saturday arrived, the sun was out and the heat was rising – about 95 degrees and humid – a perfect day to be in the pool! The Hosts were decorating the pool area when their guests, whom they hadn't met yet, started getting off at the public transit bus stop and walked through the neighborhood to the community pool. Their eyes were wide open as they took in the luxurious surroundings. The guests looked thrilled as they arrived at the pool and were welcomed by the Hosts. After about an hour, there was still room around the pool and still plenty of food to eat, so the Hosts encouraged their guests to call some friends and relatives on their cell phones and invite them catch the next bus and join them. After more gathered, and the deck of the pool was full, they locked the gate.

You know what, that party was a blast! The oldies and Latino dance music filled the air. Most of the kids were pretty wild, running and jumping into the water. A couple of overweight men, dressed in cutoff jeans and Harley Davidson Tshirts held a boisterous cannonball contest. The women talked and laughed, and talked and laughed some more. Several of the kids dove into the food as if they hadn't had a good meal for days. Some adults asked if they could pass on the wine and go for some Pepsi or Bud Light instead. Many of the guests couldn't speak English, but they were hanging out with each other and seemed to have a good time trying to communicate with their new friends. And you know what, the Host family loved every minute of it. Surely, this was the highlight of everyone's summer!

As the sun began to set, the party showed little sign of winding down. But out on the street, a family that belonged to the Swim Team was just returning from their out of town excursion and pulled up to the curb. Another swim team dad, finished with his household project, came to meet them, and together, with beach towels in arms, they walked toward the joyous music and laughter and the smell of steaks cooking on the grill. But as they got to the main gate, they found it was locked. They went to the side gate, too, and it also was secured. With all the people and all the noise, the swim team members couldn't get the attention of Mr or Mrs Host, who were the only people they knew. And with a frustrated shrug (and not a few whines from the children), they turned around and walked away.

If you want to enjoy the party, you've got to say yes to the host.

Sermon Series (Sample)
“Why Christmas?”

Purpose/focus: Knowing that visitors are most likely to come to church at Christmas time, this series is designed for the unchurched. It presents the doctrine of the incarnation in a winsome, understandable, and memorable way. Note: To promote the series and help listeners to remember the teaching, I will create book markers with the four titles and simple pictures. Enclosed.

Date	Text	Purpose	Notes on Creativity
Week 1: “Why a Stable?”	Hebrews 4:14-16	Introduction of the doctrine of the incarnation. My purpose is to help listeners understand why the Son of God became human, and move them to trust him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the pulpit. • Set up a simple manger on stage. • Preach the two points of the sermon from two sides of the manger. • Engage listeners in dialogue to teach them the concept of “High Priest.”
Week 2: “Why Shepherds?”	Luke 2:8-20	Help the listeners understand implications of the incarnation; namely: why Christians are so thankful and enthusiastic about Jesus’ birth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role playing/drama to introduce the sermon: show different reactions to Christmas. One person is bored, another is confused, another is nostalgic, and so forth. Create identification. • Organize the message narratively—tell the story with vivid language and delivery, then wrap it up with two or three brief points.
Etc.			

Reading Report
(Due first day of class)

Name: _____

Text	Number of pages	Number of pages read
Arthurs, <i>Preaching with Variety</i> .	201	
Card, <i>Scribbling in the Sand</i> .	163	
Day, <i>Preaching With All You've Got</i> .	177	
Hendricks, <i>Color Outside the Lines</i> .	280	
Mawhinney, <i>Preaching With Freshness</i> .	243	
Miller, <i>Experiential Storytelling</i> .	148	
Von Oech, <i>A Whack on the Side of the Head</i> .	229	
Wiersbe, <i>Preaching and Teaching</i> .	327	
TOTAL	1768	

D. Min. students, list other books and number of pages read:

For Further Reading

Bass, Alice. *The Creative Life: A Workbook for Unearthing the Christian Imagination*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.

Beach, Nancy. *An Hour on Sunday: Creating Moments of Transformation and Wonder*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Chatham, James O. *Enacting the Word: Using Drama in Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Cranton, Patricia. *Understanding and Promoting Transformative Learning: A Guide for Educators of Adults*, 2nd ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.

Edwards, J. Kent. *Effective First-Person Biblical Preaching: The Steps from Text to Narrative Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Farmer, Richard Allen. *It Won't Fly if You Don't Try, or, How to Let Your Creative Genius Take Flight*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1991.

Freeman, Harold. *Variety in Biblical Preaching: Innovative Techniques and Fresh Forms*. Waco, TX: Word, 1987.

Galli, Mark and Larson, Craig Brian. *Preaching that Connects; Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Gardner, Howard. *Creating Minds : An Anatomy of Creativity Seen through the Lives of Freud, Einstein, Picasso, Stravinsky, Eliot, Graham, and Gandhi*. New York: Basic, 1993.

Hesselbein, Frances and Rob Johnston. *On Creativity, Innovation, and Renewal: A Leader to Leader Guide*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Howard, J. Grant. *Creativity in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Jacks, G. Robert. *Getting the Word Across: Speech Communication for Pastors and Lay Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Jacks, G. Robert. *Just Say the Word! Writing for the Ear*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2005.

Lewis, Ralph L. and Lewis, Gregg. *Learning to Preach Like Jesus*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1987.

McDill, Wayne V. *The Moment of Truth: A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Nashville: Broadman Holman, 1999.

Mezirow, Jack. *Transformative Dimensions of Adult Learning*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1991.

Mezirow, Jack and Associates. *Learning as Transformation: Critical Perspectives on a Theory in Progress*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Mitchell, Jolyon P. *Visually Speaking: Radio and the Renaissance of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1999.

Richards, Lawrence O. *Creative Bible Teaching*. Chicago: Moody, 1970.

Robinson, Haddon W., and Robinson Torrey W. *It's All In How You Tell It: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Robinson, Haddon, and Larson, Craig Brian, eds. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Schultz, Thom and Joani. *Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It*. Loveland, CO: Group, 1993.

Thiagarajan, Sivasailam. *Thiagi's 100 Favorite Games*. San Francisco: Pfeiffer/John Wiley & Sons 2006.

Turner, Timothy A. *Preaching to Programmed People: Effective Communication in a Media-Saturated World*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1995.

VanGundy, Arthur. *101 Activities for Teaching Creativity and Problem Solving*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.

Von Oech, Roger. *A Kick in the Seat of the Pants*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.

Vines, Jerry. *Effective Sermon Delivery*. Chicago: Moody, 1986.

Evaluation Sheet: Parable

Name: _____

Time: _____

Grade: _____

Exegesis

Presentation Skills (non verbal)

Use of Language and Imagination

Overall Effectiveness

**Evaluation Sheet: D. Min. Presentation
Theology of Creativity or Biblical Models of Creativity**

Name: _____

Time: _____

Grade: _____

Depth of Thought

Clarity of Organization

Use of Visuals and other Support Material

Delivery

Evaluation Sheet: Sermon

Name: _____

Time: _____

Text: _____

Grade: _____

Preaching with Clear Development

Preaching with Accurate Interpretation

Preaching with Creative Communication

Preaching with Engaging Delivery