Essential Information
Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information
Professor: Dr. Steve Estep  Email: pastorsteve@clarksvillegrace.org
Office: (931) 647-7768

Steve Estep completed a Bachelor of Arts from Mt. Vernon Nazarene University in 1991. He then served 2 years as youth pastor in West Virginia before earning an M. Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1996. While in seminary, Steve served as a youth pastor in Kansas City. A month before graduating from NTS he began pastoring the Harrisonville Church of the Nazarene where he served for 11 ½ years. In 2006 Steve completed a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from McCormick Theological Seminary. In Jan. 2008 he became the Sr. Pastor of the Clarksville Grace Church of the Nazarene. Steve and his wife Michelle have been married 21 years, and they have three children. Brandon (20), Brooke (17) and Blake (15). Steve enjoys spending time with his kids, riding motorcycles and jet-skis, fishing, and hunting.

Catalog Description
A study of the nature and importance of Christian preaching and the characteristics of sermon preparation; the selection and interpretation of the text, the formulation of the sermon sentence and the function statement, the movement from text to sermon, the shaping of the sermon, the improvement of the sermon style, the delivery of the sermon, the context of preaching, and an introduction to the funeral sermon.
Course Narrative & Rationale
This course is designed to help the preacher understand the meaning of Christian preaching and to develop skills in sermon formation and delivery. The student will be introduced to selected current homiletical forms. Techniques of textual and congregational exegesis will be examined, with particular emphases on imagination, creativity, and passion for preaching. Lecture, class discussion, and listening to sermons will comprise the primary learning/teaching experiences in the week long module sessions.

Students will have the opportunity to integrate and apply what they have learned by preaching in class. While life-long growth in one’s ability to preach is the expectation, it is anticipated that some life-long practices for sermon formation will be gained in this course. Students will be able to carefully articulate and reflect on their own homiletic. An assumption in this course is that while certain practices and skills can be learned that will make us better preachers, there is no substitute for Spirit-led, Spirit-inspired proclamation.

Degree Objectives
This course addresses the following NTS Degree Program Objectives:
MDiv Objective 4: Cultivation of gifts, practical skills, and vocational identity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through engagement in and reflection of the pastoral arts, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student/graduate will: b. Model and facilitate Christian witness and spiritual transformation, c. Communicate effectively in written, spoken, artistic, and other forms.
MDiv Objective 5: Understanding of local and global diversity through the investigation of cultural contexts, to enable the Church to proclaim effectively and to embody the mission of God, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student/graduate will: a. Articulate the missional nature of the church, b. Exegete the congregation, c. Exegete aspects of society including ethnicity and culture.

Course Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should satisfy the competency requirements as set forth in the Course of Study for Ministers in the Church of the Nazarene. The following will be addressed through the course objectives and requirements:

CP 1 Ability to communicate publicly through multiple methods (oral, written, media, etc.) with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning (Assignments 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 8)

CP 3 Ability to speak coherently in the mode of discourse appropriate for the various ministry contexts. (Assignments 1, 3c, 3d, 5, 8)

CP 22 Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons in culturally appropriate ways, using appropriate techniques and skills. (Assignments 3a, 3b, 5, 7)

CP 23 Ability to develop and utilize existing ministry forms such as evangelistic preaching, pastoral care preaching doctrinal/teaching preaching, and preaching Christian seasons / calendar, by which individuals, families, and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness. (Assignments 3a, 3d, 4, 5, 6, 7)

CP 24 Ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current homiletical models in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives. (Assignments 3a, 3d, 4, 7)

By the conclusion of this class the student should be equipped to:
1. Articulate their own homiletic and identify the “lenses” through which they see scripture and interpret experience. (Assignments 1, 2, 3a-d, 4, 6, 7, 8)

2. Form (with knowledge of which homileticians they draw upon) and deliver a sermon that is:
   - Passionate
   - Biblically and Theologically sound (CP 22)
   - Creative
   - Contextually appropriate (CP 3)
   - Readily Applicable
   - Balanced - cognitive, emotive, and intuitive

   (Assignments 2, 3a-d, 4, 5, 7)

3. Compose a preaching calendar with attention given to the Christian calendar, and various biblical / doctrinal themes that should be addressed in the course of a year that include but are not limited to: salvation, sanctification, the Church, sacraments, family related issues, healing, forgiveness, grace, and other issues that make for a well rounded diet for the congregation. (CP 23) (Assignments 2, 6, 7)

**Required Texts & Course Materials**


**Course Outline Mon. Aug. 26, 1:00 pm – Fri. Aug. 30, 12:00 pm**

Aug. 26
- Introduction to the Course & each other, sermon by Dr. Estep
- The Preacher and the Holy Spirit
- Definitions and Theology of Preaching
- Knowing our Lenses / Limitations

Aug. 27
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Genre
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Dynamic Translation
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Journaling
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Description
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Asking the Right Questions

Aug. 28
- Tools for Engaging the Text: Consulting the Scholars

Dr. Hahn / walking bibliography commentaries, online resources
- Context Specific Preaching (Tisdale)
- Developing a Sermon Purpose Statement (Thomas)

- Sermon Form: The Importance of Plot
Sermon Form: Various narrative/inductive forms

Aug. 29 Planning a Preaching Calendar
Student Sermons

Aug. 30 Student Sermons

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Prior to the class, students will write a 1-3 page homiletic (this is a description of your own process of sermon formation) and mail to the instructor a recent video-taped sermon (DVD) with manuscript, outline, or whatever you typically write out. This will be due by Wednesday, July 31 and can be mailed to Dr. Steve Estep 238 Blair Dr. Clarksville, TN 37043 (Addresses Outcomes 1, CP 1, CP 3)

2. Class Attendance and Participation Because theological education assumes that significant learning takes place in integrative dialogue, regular class attendance is required. Because of the block nature of the class, class attendance and participation will be evaluated in the final grade. Make-up assignments are at the discretion of the instructor. (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, 3, CP 1)

3. Textbook Reading Each student is required to read each of the assigned textbooks in full and be prepared for full participation in group exercises and discussion. Reading reports on each of the texts should be 2-4 pages each, should be posted on Moodle or emailed to the instructor on or before the date due, and should address the following:

3a. Boone - Report Due July 29 Drawing from more than just Part 2 of the book, how would you describe Boone’s appreciation for, understanding of, or approach to Scripture? Use a few quotes but don’t fill the paper with quotes. Do you agree or disagree? What might you add to the conversation? (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP 22, CP 23, CP 24)

3b. Tisdale - Report Due Aug. 5 Showing knowledge of Tisdale’s suggestions, provide and exegesis of your current congregational context. (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP 1, CP 22)

3c. Thomas - Report Due Aug. 12 What is the greatest motivation for behavioral change? What other motives have you seen/heard/used? Briefly describe the structure Thomas suggests. What did you find most helpful in this book? (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP 1, CP 3)

3d. Arthurs - Report Due Aug. 19 What did you find most helpful about this book? How have or will you incorporate Arthur’s insights in your own sermon preparation and preaching? (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP 3, CP 23, CP 24)

4. Sermon Evaluations. The assignment is to evaluate 3 sermons. Each evaluation should be 3-4 pages and address the following questions:

   1. Preacher, date, text, congregational context
   2. How did the preacher allow the form of the text to impact the form of the sermon? (May want to utilize the checklist at the end of the appropriate chapter from Preaching with Variety to help with this assessment.)
   3. What is the Good News?
   4. What commendations? (Things you liked, found helpful, etc. Address both form and content.)
5. What recommendations? (How might this sermon have been better?)
6. What response do you think this sermon was intended to evoke? What response did this sermon evoke in you?

If the sermon is preached on a special occasion, that also needs to be noted. (CP 24) Sermon evaluations will be due Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Sept. 30. (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, CP 23, CP 24)

5. Each student will preach one sermon in class and provide the following on the day the sermon is preached:
   1. Sermon Manuscript (which includes the sermon purpose statement)
   2. A description of the congregational context
   3. Dynamic Translation of the text
   4. All of the exegetical work done in preparation for the sermon
   5. A description of how the sermon took shape from initial reading of the text to proclamation.
      (Addresses Outcomes 2, CP 3, CP 22, CP 23)


7. Collateral Reading on Preaching  Good preachers insatiably read about preaching. In addition to your textbooks read at least 500 pages from the bibliography (or books approved by the professor). After reading write a 7-8 page reflection on your reading (not a summary, but a response as to what you agree/disagree with and how you will/will not use it in your own process of sermon formation or delivery). Be sure to include the bibliographical information for each book from which you read and the pages read. Due Oct. 7 (Addresses Outcomes 1, 2, 3, CP 22, CP 23, CP 24)

8. Final  In light of what you have been exposed to in this course, re-write your homiletic (process of sermon formation from text-selection, to proclamation). Due Oct. 15. (Addresses Outcomes 1, CP 1, CP 3)

**Distribution of Student Learning Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>pre-module hours</th>
<th>module hours</th>
<th>post-module hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>The Witness of Preaching (198 pgs)</td>
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<td>They Like to Never Quit Praisin God (130 pgs)</td>
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<td>Preaching with Variety (240 pgs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preaching the Story that Shapes Us (276 pgs)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Collateral reading</td>
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Writing 2 6
Homiletic 10 10 8
Reading reports - class texts (4)
Sermon
Sermon Evaluations
Collateral Reading Report
Other Assignments and Learning Activities 0 0 20
Quarterly Preaching Calendar 3
Sermon Evaluations (listening to sermons)
Exams & Quizzes (final) Rewritten Homiletic 0 0 2
TOTAL 46 42 59

Method for Submitting Assignments
Assignments can be submitted in person, through the mail, e-mail, or by posting on moodle.

Form and Style Expectations
Citations may be made in the Textbook Reading Reports and the Collateral Reading Reports used the last name of the author and the page(s) cited. Bibliographical information should be presented according to the guidelines of Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.* 8th ed. Chicago: IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Inclusive Language
NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams
Unless prior arrangements are made, late work will be penalized 10% per day late. There are no exams in this course.

Additional Costs
Beyond NTS tuition and fees, textbooks, and the cost of internet access for Moodle there are no additional required costs for this course.

Course Grading
Homiletic and 1st Video sermon 10%
Reading Reports 15%
Class attendance and participation 10%
Sermon Evaluations 10%
1 Quarter preaching calendar 10%
Final 10%
Class Sermon / supp. materials 35%

Class Attendance
Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

By NTS policy if a student is absent for 8 hrs of a one week module, the professor may automatically fail the student. Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

Audio and Video Recordings
In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited.

Students enrolling in videoconferencing courses or participating in certain synchronous Moodle activities should be aware that their images and voices will be transmitted digitally through the videoconferencing equipment and may be recorded. Continued enrollment in these courses constitutes willingness to participate in the class with these conditions. If you have privacy concerns, please discuss your enrollment with the Registrar.

Course Calendar
July 29 Reading Report – Boone
July 31 Video Sermon and homiletic
Aug. 5 Reading Report - Tisdale
Module In Class Sermon
Last Day of Module Final
August 12 Reading Report - Thomas
August 19 Reading Report – Arthurs
By Sept. 16 Sermon Evaluation # 1
Sept. 23 Sermon Evaluation # 2
Sept. 30 Sermon Evaluation # 3
Oct. 7 Collateral Reading Report
Oct. 14 1 quarter preaching calendar
Oct. 15 Final – Revised homiletic

Bibliography


Lowry, Eugene L. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville:


Tracy, Wesley D. *What’s A Nice God Like You Doing In A Place Like This?* Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1990.


