



Licentiate in Theology Course Syllabus

Fall Term 2026

COURSE #: Homiletics 370 / Biblical Studies 370

Preaching the Parables of Jesus

Huron University College Land Acknowledgment

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

Course Dates: Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Dec 7th, 2026

Time: Mondays 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. (EST)

Delivery: Hosted via Zoom

Instructors: The Rev. Jeff Crittenden, D.Min, PhD.

Contact: jcritte@uwo.ca

Course Description

The parables of Jesus are well-loved by both preachers in the pulpit as well as parishioners in the pew. Oftentimes, sermons on the parables tend to fall into traditional and expected interpretive patterns – even though they were originally shocking or challenging to their hearers! In this course, we will talk about different ways scholars today interpret the parables and see how learning about their original contexts – in the Gospels as well as in the teaching of Jesus – can provide fresh insights for preachers. Students will also become acquainted with different styles of preaching, learn how to integrate biblical study into sermon preparation, and

have a chance to practice preaching (on Zoom) and get feedback from both instructors and peers.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will...

1. improve their skill in reading the Canonical Gospels, especially Jesus' parables
2. understand the history of and the challenges of interpreting Jesus' parables
3. learn to assess both methods and results in parable interpretation
4. develop strategies for moving from biblical exegesis to sermon preparation
5. learn different styles of preaching and structures for sermons
6. gain experience preparing, writing, and delivering a sermon on a parable of their choice

Required Text

Long, Tom. *Proclaiming the Parables: Preparing and Teaching the Kingdom of God*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2024.

Course Outline/Plan

- Nov 2:** **Jesus and the Gospels; Jesus and the Parables; What is a Parable?**
For discussion: the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
Read Long- first two chapters, pgs. 1-40
- Nov 9:** **Parables of Mark (8 parables)**
Read Long- Mark's Parables: Background, pgs. 41-55
Select **ONE** parable from the Gospel of Mark and prepare a **500-word** exegesis/interpretation of the parable for class presentation.
- Nov 16:** **Parables of Luke (24 parables)**
Read Long- Luke's Parables: Background, pgs. 245-257
Select **ONE** parable from the Gospel of Luke and prepare a **500-word** exegesis/interpretation of the parable for class presentation.
- Nov 23:** **Parables of Matthew (23 parables)**
Read Long- Matthew's Parables: Background, pgs. 103-121
Select **ONE** parable from the Gospel of Matthew and prepare a **500-word** exegesis/interpretation of the parable for class presentation.
- Nov 30:** **Moving from Biblical Exegesis to Sermon Preparation**
Our class will focus on the structure, style, and flow of preaching a parable.
Class will preach a **7 min or less** sermon on a parable of their choosing.

Dec 6: Preaching the Parables

Class will preach a **7 min or less** sermon on a parable of their choosing.

Parables

The Wise and the Foolish Builders	Matthew 7:24–27; Luke 6:46–49
New Wine into Old Wineskins	Matthew 9:16–17; Mark 2:21–22; Luke 5:37–39
The Strong Man	Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21–22
The Two Debtors	Luke 7:41–43
The Sower	Matthew 13:3–9; Mark 4:3–9; Luke 8:5–8
The Lamp Under a Bushel	Matthew 5:14–15; Mark 4:21–25; Luke 8:16–18
The Growing Seed	Mark 4:26–29
The Tares	Matthew 13:24–30
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25–37
The Friend at Night	Luke 11:5–8
The Rich Fool	Luke 12:16–21
The Barren Fig Tree	Luke 13:6–9
The Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19
The Leaven	Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20–21
The Hidden Treasure	Matthew 13:44
The Pearl	Matthew 13:45–46
Drawing in the Net	Matthew 13:47–50
Householder's Treasure	Matthew 13:51–52
The Wedding Feast	Luke 14:7–14
Counting the Cost	Luke 14:28–33
The Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:10–14; Luke 15:4–6
The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:23–35
The Lost Coin	Luke 15:8–9
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11–32
The Unjust Steward	Luke 16:1–13
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Luke 16:19–31
The Master and Servant	Luke 17:7–10
The Unjust Judge	Luke 18:1–8
Pharisee and the Publican	Luke 18:9–14
The Workers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1–16
The Two Sons	Matthew 21:28–32
The Wicked Husbandmen	Matthew 21:33–41; Mark 12:1–9; Luke 20:9–16
The Great Banquet	Matthew 22:1–14; Luke 14:15–24
The Budding Fig Tree	Matthew 24:32–35; Mark 13:28–31; Luke 21:29–33
The Faithful Servant	Matthew 24:42–51; Mark 13:34–37; Luke 12:35–48
The Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1–13
The Talents or Minas	Matthew 25:14–30; Luke 19:12–27[101]
The Sheep and the Goats	Matthew 25:31–46

Other Notable Parables in the Bible

The Poor Man's Ewe Lamb	2 Samuel 12:1–4)
The Two Brothers Fighting	2 Samuel 14:1–11
The Escaped Prisoner	1 Kings 20:35–40
The Thistle and the Cedar	2 Kings 14:9
The Trees Looking for a King	Judges 9:7–15
The Poor Wise Man	Ecclesiastes 9:14–18
God's Vineyard	Isaiah 5:1–6
The Plowman	Isaiah 28:23–29
The Potter	Jeremiah 18:1–10
The Boiling Pot	Ezekiel 24:3–5)
The Two Harlots	Ezekiel 23:2–21
The Lion's Cubs	Ezekiel 19:2–9
The Eagles and the Vine	Ezekiel 17:1–10

Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading

(only for students choosing to be evaluated for full course credit)

Detailed instructions and options will be given in class.

1. Class Engagement/Participation – 20%
2. Submission of a **three** 500-word exegesis of a parable from Mark, Luke and Matthew* – 30%
*Late assignments will have a letter grade deduction for each week outstanding.
3. Presentation of ONE 500-word parable (in Class) – 20%
4. Sermon (7 mins or less) – 30% (in Class)

Huron Grade Descriptors

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Statement of Prohibition on the Use of AI

As the primary purpose of Huron's Licentiate in Theology Program is to enable critical thinking, spiritual growth, the cultivation of individual ministry skillsets, and personal discernment for future ministry leadership, this means that we expect our students to offer up only their own ideas and original contributions of writing, assignments, and evaluative content. Any and all use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is strictly prohibited within this program. Any student that violates this prohibition will be disqualified from receiving credit for the course they are taking. Any student who repeatedly violates this prohibition may risk expulsion from the LTh Program.

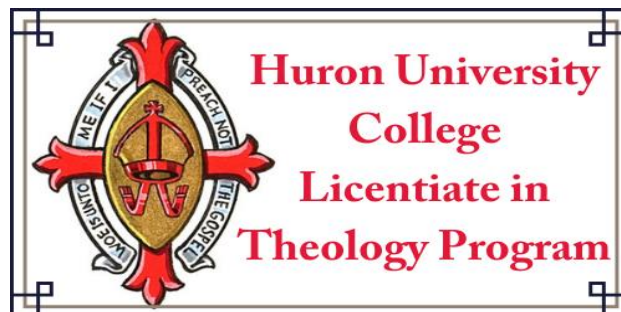
Statement on the Recording of Class Activities

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recordings are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Coordinator, Chris Travers, at chris.travers@huron.uwo.ca



THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON'S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE
FOR THE FALL TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2026.