



Fall Term 2026
Shaping the Preacher (Homiletics 101)
LTh Course Syllabus
Building Habits for the Ministry of Proclamation

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: September 14, 21, 28 and October 4, 19, 26.

Time: Monday from 6:30 – 9 P.M. (CT), 7:30 – 10 P.M. (ET)

Delivery: Hosted via Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrery Crittenden

Contact: [jcritee@uwo.ca](mailto:jcrittee@uwo.ca)

Course Description

Preaching is an art that requires time, effort, learning, openness and above all, humility. A preacher's call, to share the Good News of the Gospel, is grounded in relationship with our Living God, the hearer (often congregations) and the great company of preachers (in our midst, before and those who will come after us). Incredible insights and experiences, attention to our context and our spiritual formation inform preaching and the worship life. In our gatherings, we will explore the foundations of the preaching life and, with it, practice becoming

enthusiastic orators, storytellers, and, more importantly, deepen our ability to articulate our testimony.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, a student should be able to... :

1. Learn to cultivate and shape healthy habits for being a preacher
2. Identify how to draw inspiration from the Scriptures, the world around them, and the people they inspire and challenge.
3. Apply healthy habits in the preparation and practice of preaching.
4. Formulate a plan for the ongoing cultivation of the spiritual life.

Required Texts

The following two texts are required to be purchased by the students in this class:

Herrington, J. Creech, R. Taylor, T. *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Organizational Transformation*. San Francisco, CA, Jossey-Bass. 2003.

Brueggemann, W. *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No in the Culture of Now*. Louisville, Ky, Westminster John Knox Press. 2014

Course Outline/Plan

Week 1 (Sept 14): The Preacher's Life: Foundations

Core Topics:

- Preaching as an overflow of personal prayer, not a performance.
- Time boundaries: Protecting family, rest, and Sabbath from sermon stress.
- Body and voice care: Breathing, posture, and vocal health.
- Reading/Resource: Selected video clips presented.
- Application: Introduction to "Sabbath Journal" and "Preacher's Notebook".
- Write a 500-word presentation about a preacher whom you admire: Presented Week 2.

Week 2 (Sept 21): Finding the Seed: Scripture and Exegesis

Core Topics:

- Reading the text.
- Identifying what the text says and does not say
- Avoiding "proof-texting" (forcing the text to say what you want).
- Reading/Resource: Introduction to basic biblical interpretation models and resources.
- Application: Write a 500-word presentation about a character or place in the Scriptures. Presented Week 3.

Week 3 (Sept 28): Eyes Wide Open: Finding Inspiration in the World and the Pew

Core Topics:

- Cultural exegesis: Finding theological threads in art, news, and daily life.
- Pastoral listening: Preaching to the hurts, joys, and realities of your specific community.
- Paying attention to the 'listener'.
- Reading/Resource: Excerpts on contextual preaching and local theology.
- Application: Write a 500-word presentation connecting a current event with a story from Scripture. Presented Week 4.

Week 4 (Oct 5): The Architecture of a Sermon: Outlining and Structuring

Core Topics:

- Different sermon structures (Narrative, Celebration, Exegesis, Topical, Pastoral, Missional).
- Crafting Sermon beginnings and endings.
- Structure for clarity and flow.
- Reading/Resource: Guide to sermon structural models.
- Application: Craft a 7-minute sermon to be presented to the class. Presented Week 5.

Week 5 (Oct 19): The Craft of Delivery: Oration and Storytelling

Core Topics:

- The art of storytelling: Tension, resolution, and personal testimony.
- Manuscript vs. Outline vs. Extemporaneous delivery.
- Non-verbal and verbal communication: Eye contact, hand gestures, tone, clarity, vocal range, and movement.
- Reading/Resource: selected video clips presented. Peer Evaluation (Observation Sheet).

Application: Write a 500-word story of what the Preaching Life means to you and craft a pastoral prayer based on your spiritual journey. Please include insights from- *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Organizational Transformation* and *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No in the Culture of Now*. Presented week 6.

Week 6 (Oct 26): The Preaching Life

Core Topics:

- Unpacking cultural, socioeconomic, and personal biases in our preaching.
- Continuing education: Designing a reading and growth plan.
- Setting up ongoing feedback loops (mentors, peer groups).
- Devotional life approaches.

Suggested Bibliography

- Barnes, C. *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*. Grand Rapids, MI, Brazos Press. 2020.
- Barnes, Craig. *The Pastor as Minor Poet*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans. 2009.
- Brueggemann, W. *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No in the Culture of Now*. Louisville, Ky, Westminster John Knox Press. 2014.
- Callahan, K. *Preaching Grace*. San Francisco, CA, Jossey-Bass. 1999.
- Herrington, J. Creech, R. Taylor, T. *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Organizational Transformation*. San Francisco, CA, Jossey-Bass. 2003.
- Lewis, K. *A Lay Preacher's Guide. How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*. Minneapolis. Fortress Press. 2020.
- Lose, D. *Preaching at the Crossroads*. Minneapolis, Fortress Press. 2013.
- Moss, O. *Blue Note preaching in a Post Soul World*. Louisville, Ky, Westminster John Knox. 2015.
- McClure, J. (ed). *Best Advice for Preaching*. Minneapolis, Fortress Press. 1998.
- McClure, J., Utley, A. *Learning Together to Preach*. Oregon, Cascade. 2023.
- Taylor, B. *The Preaching Life*. Boston, Mass. Cowley Publications. 1993.
- Williams, R. *Tokens of Trust*. Louisville, Ky, Westminster John Knox. 2007

Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading

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

1. Class Engagement/Participation – 20%

Students are expected to participate in class by reflecting on their insights from readings and assignments.

2. Sabbath Journal and Preacher's Notebook- 20%

A Sabbath Journal and Preacher's Notebook will be kept for every week of the course. Entries will include connections between Scripture and our context/world events and personal growth/insight. The length will depend on the individual.

3. Presentation on a Character/geographical location in Scripture – 20%

Students will select a person/ geographical location in the Scriptures and write a minimum of 500 words describing either: the person (their significance, their actions, the result of their actions, the impact on the story and so forth), or a geographical location in Scripture (the location, its history, its significance in the story, and how the location shapes the Gospel story).

4. Exegesis and Sermon Presentation – 40%

Select a Biblical text from the lectionary. Draw on learnings from class and prepare a 7-minute sermon to preach 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 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.

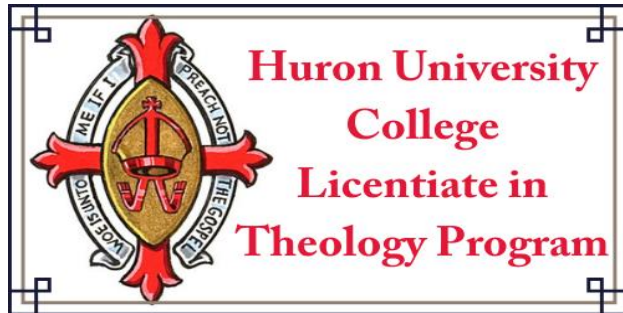
Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recordings are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student 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

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 who 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.

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.