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PR 501 Communication for Christian Leaders

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COMMUNICATION FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS
PR 501
PROFESSOR MIKE PASQUARELLO

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30-5:30

The purpose of Communication For Christian Leaders is to provide an introduction to the art of written and spoken communication within a theological framework and for the purpose of Christian ministry. The course has been designed to address particular needs in the Asbury Seminary curriculum by providing a foundation for preaching and teaching ministries of all kinds. We will combine theory and practice, examining classical canons of rhetoric to acquire practical wisdom for clear, coherent, and persuasive written and oral communication.

The course will enable students to:

- 1) acquire a basic understanding of the most important features of classical rhetoric
- 2) discern how theory is embedded in and informs practice, enabling perspective and judgment necessary for effective communication
- 3) sharpen their capacity for: critical thinking, organizing clear and coherent presentations, persuasive delivery

REQUIRED TEXTS

David S. Cunningham, *Faithful Persuasion*
G. Robert Jacks, *Getting the Word Across: Speech Communication for Pastors and Lay Leaders*
Duane Litfin, *Public Speaking*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading and responding to the required texts: A three page review of Cunningham's book that evaluates its contribution to shaping your perspective on Christian communication. Due on Sept 25.

Complete 2 of the written exercises at the end of each chapter in Litfin. Due on December 4.

Do the exercises in Jacks to prepare for your oral readings and presentations in class.

Complete 7 wwoone-page evaluations of sermons, speeches, lectures, or presentations, reviewing them by the criteria established in class. Due on November 13.

One exam, covering readings and lectures. Thursday, October 18.

Two 10 minute oral presentations. One will be an exposition of a Christian text (not necessarily the Bible) the other will be a topical and persuasive presentation. Neither is to be a sermon! Both will assume a context and audience for some kind of Christian ministry. (congregation, committee, UMW, Sunday School, Bible Study, Youth, Campus Ministry, Confirmation Class, groups outside the church whom you may address in your ministry-I will let you use your imagination here in order to practice for the future). An outline of the presentation will be handed in with a manuscript. Delivery may include the use of one page of notes.

Oral readings: to include Scripture, public prayers, and liturgical leadership.

A five minute “How I got here” introduction of yourself to the class (not graded)

A Final Paper, due on Dec 13 (there will be no final exam)

This is not a research paper, but a 5 page (max) reflective essay on the practice of communication for Christian leaders in light of what has been read, discussed, and learned in this class. How will this inform your life and ministry?

COURSE EVALUATION

Reading, written responses, evaluations: 15%

Participation and attendance: 10%

Exam: 10%

Final Paper: 15%

Oral Presentations: 50%

Attendance is assumed at the plenary sessions during the first part of the semester. Thereafter, the class will be divided into 2 sub-groups for presentations. All presentations must be given on the assigned dates, make-ups cannot be scheduled. Written work that is submitted late will be penalized.

OUR CALENDAR (Tentative)

T-Sep 4: Introducing the course

R-Sep 6: How I Got Here

T-Sep11: How I Got Here

R-Sep 13: Pathos-Read Cunningham, 1-97

T-Sep 18: Ethos-Cunningham, 98-147

R-Sep 20: Logos-Cunningham, 148-203

T-Sep 25: Discovery and Focus-Litfin, 79-148

R-Sep 27: Arrangement and Supporting Material-Litfin, 149-232

T-Oct 2: Introductions and Conclusions, Style-Litfin, 233-310

R-Oct 4: Delivery-Litfin, 311-332, Jacks, 21-110

T-Oct 9: Oral Reading-Jacks, 111-208 Bring a Bible to class. Practice in groups

R-Oct 11: Oral Reading-Bring a Bible to Class. Read two Scripture lessons, a public prayer.

T-Oct 16: Oral Reading-Bring a Bible to Class. Two Scripture lessons, a public prayer.

R-Oct 18: Mid-term. True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill in the blanks.

T-Oct 23: Presentations begin and will continue until the semester ends. A separate schedule will be handed out which will assign dates for presentations. Please limit your presentations to 10 minutes! Be considerate of others' time.

I welcome you to this class. It is my hope that you will grow in your competence and confidence as a Christian communicator. I also hope you will begin to make important connections between the Word of God and your words, recognizing that not only what we say, but also how, why, and to whom, are issues that must be treated in a Christian manner! I encourage you to see this course in light of your vocation: preaching, teaching, counseling, administration, specialized ministries, etc. Use what we do to prepare yourself for the next step you will take on the path to that ministry. This course is now a prerequisite for Preaching 610. Therefore, we will not go back to cover these topics in preaching, but will assume that you have had an introduction to the basic principles of rhetoric and have reflected on their importance and use within a Christian framework to proclaim the Gospel. This should give you a strong head-start in preaching, allowing you to concentrate on the most important matters of biblical exegesis, theological reflection, and pastoral discernment in the preaching course.

During the first half of the semester, I would like to have lunch with groups of 3 students at a time so we may get acquainted and I may learn more of your vocational plans and how Asbury Seminary may assist you in answering God's call. Please feel free to email me with your questions and concerns during the semester. I will respond as soon as possible. I also will be holding office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30.

Peace,
Mike Pasquarello