

COMMUNICATIONS I (PT5100-W1 – Residential)

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Fall 2026

September 10 – December 17, 2026

Thursdays, 7:00–9:00 PM

Overview

This course provides an introduction to the theological foundations and essential skills needed to interpret and communicate Scripture faithfully within the life of the church. Special attention will be given to how biblical interpretation shapes both formal teaching (e.g., preaching, Bible studies) and informal ministry (e.g., counseling, discipleship conversations). Students will learn to handle God's Word with humility, clarity, and relevance for the sake of building up the body of Christ.

Course Purpose

1. To establish a theological foundation for interpreting Scripture rooted in the character of God, the unity of the Bible, and the redemptive work of Christ.
2. To equip students with essential interpretive skills, enabling them to read, understand, and apply Scripture responsibly and contextually.
3. To develop clarity and confidence in biblical communication, preparing students to teach, preach, and disciple others effectively.
4. To cultivate a vision for ministry shaped by Scripture, where the Word of God informs both public proclamation and everyday relational ministry within the church.

Course Description

1. Explores key theological foundations for biblical communication, with special attention to a Reformed understanding of:
 - Biblical authority
 - Redemptive history
 - The church's role in proclamation

2. Strengthens core interpretive skills through guided exercises in:
 - Close reading of biblical texts
 - Outlining and structuring sermons or talks
 - Contextualizing messages for diverse ministry settings
3. Equips students to communicate Scripture with clarity, theological depth, and pastoral sensitivity.
4. Includes an in-class sermon, devotional, or teaching presentation followed by peer and instructor feedback.
5. Emphasizes the integration of content and delivery for faithful, context-sensitive ministry.

Course Texts

Required

1. Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
2. Helm, David. *Expositional Preaching: How We Speak God's Word Today*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.
3. Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
4. Allen, Lewis. *The Preacher's Catechism*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.
5. Millar, Gary, and Phil Campbell. *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media, 2013.

Additional Reading

Two to three articles will be distributed during the semester. For example:

Jeon, Paul S. "Reflections on Preaching: A Year in the Pulpit and Beyond."

Students are encouraged to consult the bibliographies contained in these works for further study in homiletics, biblical theology, and Reformed thought.

Course Requirements and Grading

Assignment	Percentage
Paper 1	25%
Paper 2	25%
Initial Presentation	20%
Final Audio Sermon	30%

All assignments must be completed by **December 17, 2026**. Extensions must be requested in advance and are granted only under exceptional circumstances.

Course Assignments

Paper 1 (25%)

Students will write a theological reflection paper articulating their understanding of preaching and its role in the life of the church. Drawing from course readings and Scripture, students should address:

- The nature and purpose of preaching
- The centrality of Christ
- The spiritual responsibilities of the preacher

Due: October 1, 2026

Paper 2 (25%)

Students will submit a sermon manuscript (1,200–1,500 words) on an assigned biblical passage. The sermon should demonstrate:

- Sound interpretation
- Clear structure
- Thoughtful application
- Christ-centered communication
- Awareness of audience and context

Due: October 15, 2026

Initial Presentation (20%)

Each student will deliver a 5–7 minute sermon, devotional, or teaching presentation.

Constructive feedback will focus on:

- Clarity
- Theological depth
- Structure
- Delivery

Schedule

- September 17 – Group A
- September 24 – Group B

Final Presentation

Students will revise their initial presentation based upon feedback and deliver a refined twenty-minute sermon.

Schedule

- December 3 – Group A
- December 10 – Group B

Final Audio Sermon (30%)

Students will submit a final audio recording of their revised sermon.

Due: December 17, 2026

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Due
Sept. 17	Student Sermon #1 (Group A)	Begin Allen
Sept. 24	Student Sermon #1 (Group B)	Finish Allen
Oct. 1	Theology of Preaching: Christ, the Church, and the Word Paper #1 Due	Helm, entire book
Oct. 8	Exegesis for Preaching: Interpreting the Text in Redemptive Context	Greidanus
Oct. 15	Reading Week — No Class Paper #2 Due	Greidanus
Oct. 22	Reading Week — No Class Structure and Clarity: Big Idea, Outline, and Flow	Greidanus
Oct. 29	Preaching Christ from All Scripture	Goldsworthy
Nov. 5	Application and Audience Awareness	Goldsworthy
Nov. 12	Voice, Tone, and Body Language in Preaching	Millar & Campbell
Nov. 19	Pastoral Sensitivity and Preaching with Grace and Conviction	Millar & Campbell
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Week — No Class	—
Dec. 3	Student Sermon #2 (Group A)	No new reading
Dec. 10	Student Sermon #2 (Group B)	No new reading
Dec. 17	Final Audio Sermon Due	Final assignment

Preaching Feedback Rubric

Score each category from 1 (Needs Improvement) to 5 (Excellent).
Use comments to support feedback.

Category	Criteria	Score (1–5)	Comments
Biblical Faithfulness	Text is accurately interpreted in context; main point aligns with the passage		
Christ-Centered Focus	Sermon clearly connects the passage to the gospel and the person/work of Christ		
Structure & Clarity	Clear introduction, logical flow, memorable outline; main idea is identifiable		
Theological Depth	Reflects sound doctrine; engages key theological themes with clarity		
Application	Applies the text meaningfully to contemporary life; grounded in the passage		
Delivery & Presence	Engaging tone, eye contact, pace, posture, and vocal variation; avoids distracting habits		
Pastoral Sensitivity	Tone is appropriate; addresses heart, mind, and circumstances with compassion		
Contextual Awareness	Adapts message appropriately to audience and setting (e.g., wedding, funeral)		

Creativity & Illustration	Uses stories, analogies, or images that enhance rather than distract		
Time Management	Presentation stays within the assigned time (~20 minutes)		

Overall Comments:

(Strengths, areas for growth, encouragement, etc.)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Communication I (PT5100-W1 - Residential)

Professor: Paul S. Jeon

Campus: Washington, DC

Date: Fall 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	The class encourages active discussion and requires students to articulate their views through written papers and oral presentations.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	All of our discussions are grounded in the authority of Scripture.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	All of our discussions presuppose a Reformed worldview. In addition, I regularly reference

			relevant sections of the Westminster Standards.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	In our time together, we regularly reflect on personal application and the relevance of course material to ministry contexts.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Please see the notes under "Reformed Theology."
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	This is essential, especially for our DC students. I regularly introduce perspectives that differ from what we affirm at RTS in order to highlight both their strengths and limitations.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	This is foundational to all seminary courses, especially those taught by pastor-scholars.