

**Syllabus
Fall 2026
Communication I
Reformed Theological Seminary – Houston
Instructor: Rev. Richard Harris
rharris@cpchouston.org**

Tuesdays 6p – 9:15pm beginning Tuesday, August 25th, 2026

Course Description – Communication 1 (2 hours)

This course addresses total communication for pastors with an emphasis on preaching philosophy and style, textual exposition, and sermon structure. Written and oral, verbal and nonverbal communications are included.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students construct a Biblical theology of preaching and a basic understanding of sermon construction.

Course Objectives

- To foster confidence in the preached Word to save, sanctify, and comfort God's elect.
- To emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical preaching
- To introduce students to the distinct nature of expository preaching
- To introduce students to the basic construction of sermons
- To explain the different elements of a sermon
- To introduce students to basic pulpit etiquette and technique

Course Requirements

1. The student is required to read the following books. A reading report is due to me by **December 1, 2026** regarding the percentage of the reading the student has completed.
 - a. Harold L. Senkbeil and Lucas V. Woodford, *The Culture of God's Word: Faithful Ministry in a Post-Christian Society* (Lexham Press, 2026).
 - b. Aaron L. Garriott, *A Word Fitly Spoken: A Theology of Communication* (Ligonier Ministries, 2025).
 - c. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).
 - d. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013).
 - e. Iain M. Duguid, *Is Jesus in the Old Testament?* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013).
 - f. Timothy Keller, *Preaching* (New York, NY: Viking, 2015).
 - g. John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*, Revised and Expanded ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2015).
 - h. David Powlison, *How Does Sanctification Work?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017).

2. The student is required to write a book review for each book (except Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*). The book review should be no more than two pages and include four sections: an overview of the book, a critique of the book, application from the book, and the best quote from the book. The book reviews are due on **December 1, 2026**.
3. The student will prepare a full sermon manuscript of an assigned passage. The sermon manuscript will demonstrate that the student has grasped the various parts of a sermon from Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*. The full sermon manuscript is due on **December 1, 2026**.

Grading

Percentage of Completed Assigned Reading 11%

Book Reviews 28%

Sermon manuscript 50%

In Class Participation 11%