

#514 Public Speaking in the Church 2
Western Reformed Seminary
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

In this course the student will continue to develop the proper production and delivery of the spoken word, including breathing, posture, and voice quality. He will practice preparing and delivering several types of short messages, especially, but not exclusively, dealing with various Christian-related subjects. The purpose of this class is to enable the student to be comfortable presenting spoken messages in a variety of modes and situations. This class is preparatory for more advanced classes in sermon preparation and delivery for ministerial students, or in Bible teaching for non-ministerial students.

Required reading

During this class you will read Part 2 of this book:

- Virgil A. Anderson, *Training the Speaking Voice* (3rd ed.)

Part 2 of this text continues with voice production and method, emphasizing the proper pronunciation of English phonemes. It is, while often technical, an excellent resource for studying the human speaking voice, and for improving individual strengths and overcoming weaknesses and faults. It contains a multitude of helpful exercises for public speakers.

Exercise log

Training the speaking voice requires many sessions of individual exercises, usually done in privacy. During these sessions you will need to be using various volumes, properly projecting your voice over various pitches; so you should practice in a place where you will not bother others or be self-conscious (the wide open spaces are best!). Each student is required to document at least 20 exercise sessions of 20-30 minutes each. Exercises may be chosen from those in Anderson, *Training the Speaking Voice*, or may come from other sources, as long as they contribute to the same end. The exercise log should contain the date, place, elapsed time, and a summary of exercises performed. Of course, many of the shorter exercises can be done in addition at various odd times throughout the day. The student should seek to do these exercises until they, and the skills they are seeking to develop, become natural and habitual.

Speeches and messages

During the semester you will be giving four different short speeches or Bible talks. Your speeches will be evaluated by the professor and by the other students in the class. You will also help to evaluate the speeches by the other students. Unless otherwise stated, you will be allowed to have brief notes with you and refer to them briefly as you speak.

You will be provided with a blank rewritable DVD so that your speeches can be recorded. You will be expected to review your speech, noting the evaluations and suggestions made in the class.

Each speech or message will have a time limit. It is important that you limit yourself to that time limit when you give the speech. Any deviation beyond 1 minute (too long or too short) from the required length of the message will result in a lower grade. There will be a timekeeper who will give signals.

Here are the speeches you will be delivering:

1. Give a personal testimony, including salvation, call to service, God's blessings or special providences in your life, etc. (8 minutes)
2. Tell the life story of a famous Christian (in history, important missionary, or contemporary). (10 minutes)
3. Select an item from current events. Relate that item to God's providential control of the world (Why might God be doing this?). Explain how that item relates to our Christian faith or duty. (12 minutes)
4. Select an important Christian doctrine from Scripture. Explain this doctrine to a group of young people in the church. Show that the doctrine is Scriptural. Show how it should impact our lives. (15 minutes)

Grading

- Attendance and participation 10
- Reading 10
- Exercise log 10
- Speech 1 15
- Speech 2 15
- Speech 3 20
- Speech 4 20