

Methodist Theological School in Ohio
3081 Columbus Pike
Delaware, OH 43015

Bible & Preaching African American Tradition (HB/NT/HM 735)

Syllabus

Instructor: Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, Ph.D.
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Office Hours by Appointment
(Best means of contact is email or cell phone)

Term: Fall, 2013

Date and Time: Thursdays, 2-4:50pm

Classroom: G142

Catalog Course Description

The goal of this course is to enable a more effective cross-cultural approach to ministry. The course has a twofold purpose: examination of the hermeneutic that has evolved as a result of the methodological utilization of scripture in preaching in the African-American religious tradition and cultural environment, and examination of the preaching traditions and forms that have developed.
Prerequisite: HM-300. 3 credit hours.

Course Goal

This course will seek to give students an understanding, a working knowledge, and an appreciation for what has become known as “Black Preaching”. By the completion of this course, students should:

- Be able to explain the historical and cultural dynamics that gave rise and birth to the “Black Preaching” hermeneutic
- Be able to explain the many different ways in which the Bible has been appropriated in the “Black Preaching” experience
- Have an appreciation for the preaching style that is often at odds with itself, trying both to assimilate into the majority culture and often simultaneously trying to maintain a separate identity
- Have an appreciation for multiple types of sermon styles and approaches in “Black Preaching”

- Have an expanded set of resources for personal sermon development

Required Textbooks

LaRue, Cleophus. *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2000.

LaRue, Cleophus, ed. *Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2002.

Mitchell, Henry. *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*. Nashville: Abingdon. 1990.

Strongly Recommended Reading Resources

Fry-Brown, Theresa. *Weary Throats and New Songs: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2003.

Gilbert, Kenyatta. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2011.

Mitchell, Henry. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.

Grading and Student Evaluation

Attendance & Class Participation *	20%
Preaching Exercises	40%
Final Sermon	40%

*Students who arrive to class on time for each meeting, refrain from taking unexcused absences, demonstrate evidence of reading assigned material through journaling, and contribute to the class discussion will have no problem receiving the total 20% available for this portion of the grade. Students that are habitually tardy will see an automatic drop in their letter grade. Students with 2 or more unexcused absences will automatically drop a letter grade. In short, be in class on time each week prepared to contribute and you will do very well in this course.

Preaching Exercises

Each student will preach short preaching exercises during the course of the semester. The topics will be assigned beforehand by the instructor. More details will be provided in class and the assignment will be given in writing.

Final Sermon

Each student will preach a final sermon. The topic for the final sermon will be left to each student to decide, however it must be approved by the professor before working on the sermon. The sermon:

- Will be 15-20 minutes in length
- May be delivered with or without a manuscript, but a manuscript must be presented to the professor before preaching the sermon (if you preach using your manuscript, bring an extra copy for yourself)
- The manuscript should contain a cover page
- Should demonstrate evidence of lessons learned during the course of the semester
- The deadline for having your text, theme, and title approved is November 7th.

Teaching Methods

- Lectures by professor and guests via video conferencing and video clips
- Class discussions
- Student sermons
- Studying the sermons of notable African-American preachers

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 29

- Introductions
- Syllabus Review
- Discussion about “Black Preaching”
- “The Dream” revisited

September 5

- No Class Meeting. Instead, each student will have to attend one night of revival to hear the preaching of Rev. Dr. Patrick Clayborn. The revival is in the Columbus area nightly from September 25 to September 27.

September 12

- Have read for class “Recovery” through Chapter 6

September 19

- Preaching Exercise #1
- Have read for class “Recovery” through Chapter 8

September 26

- Have read for class “Recovery” through Chapter 9
- Have read for class “Heart” through Chapter 1 (Including the Introduction)

October 3

- Preaching Exercise #2
- Have read for class “Heart” through Chapter 2 and related materials in Appendix

October 10

- Have read for class “Heart” through Chapter 3 and related materials in Appendix

October 17

- Reading Week

October 24

- Preaching Exercise #3
- Have read for class “Heart” through Chapter 4
- Have read for class “Power” Introduction

October 31

- Have read for class “Power” through Chapter 3

November 7

- Preaching Exercise #4
- Have read for class “Power” through Chapter 6

November 14

- Have read for class “Power” through Chapter 9

November 21

- Preaching Exercise #5
- Have read for class “Power” through Chapter 12

December 5

- Final class lecture

December 12

- Preaching Final