

HM434 Spirituality & Preaching

Fall 2009

Thursdays 8:30-11:20 A.M.

Room G145

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Course Description & Pedagogical Strategy

This class is designed to assist students in learning, cultivating, enriching, and integrating the essentials for Christian spirituality with their preaching vocations. The history and theology of the connection between spirituality and preaching; how biblical exegesis for preaching impacts and is impacted by spirituality; ways in which spirituality shapes and is shaped by homiletical style, design, form and diversity; and the ministry of Howard Thurman as an exemplar of connecting spirituality and preaching are components that will be introduced. The course seeks to increase the student's learning through multiple methods: class discussion of readings and lectures, the student's preparation and delivery of several sermons, instructor and peer evaluations of the student's sermons, extemporaneous exercises, written assignments, activities centered around particular Christian spiritual disciplines and analysis of published and videotaped sermons of well known professional clergy.

Inclusivity

All genders, races, classes, denominations and cultures are welcomed to and included in this course. The readings for this class originate from women and men of various ethnicities and Christian traditions.

Attendance and Participation

Enrollment in this course assumes regular attendance, participation in all class activities and discussions, and the completion of all assignments in a timely manner. Assignments are due on the specified date. Late work will only be accepted with severe penalty: a deduction of one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Grades

A – Excellent: demonstration of superior scholarship in homiletical analysis, exegesis, structure, and delivery; comprehension and use of class texts in all assignments; thoughtful consideration, address and application of homiletical critique from instructor and peers; completion of assignments on time

B – Above Average: better quality than average work; details of assignments met and completed on time; relevant and accurate use of course concepts and critique (from instructor and peers); all major and minor goals of the course are fulfilled

C – Minimum Standard: average work; all major goals of the course are fulfilled, but most minor ones are not; many of the details of the assignment are met; some course concepts are integrated into the work

D – Substandard but passing: below average work; only a few major goals are met; little preparation is evident; work reflects little or no use of assigned texts or course concepts

F – Failure: unsatisfactory work; no major goals are reached; no use of course concepts or readings in assignments; no display of comprehension of course content

For the METHESCO grading policy, see METHESCO's Academic Catalogue (p.24).

Sermon Evaluations

1. Only constructive critiques are accepted.
2. The aim is to be helpful.
3. Speak the truth in love and with humility.
4. Be sure to mention the preacher's strengths as well as her/his growing edges.
5. Pay careful attention to the sermon's content, structure, delivery, and communicability.
6. During the evaluation, the preacher must **LISTEN** to all comments before making her/his own comments. There is no need to defend a particular theology, style or faith tradition. Please receive all comments with a spirit of humility.

Readings

Bible (NRSV)

The Holy Spirit and Preaching by James Forbes

Preaching from the Soul by J. Ellsworth Kalas

Women Preaching by Eunjoo Mary Kim

The Word Before the Powers by Charles Campbell

This Is My Story edited by Cleophus LaRue

Disciplines of the Spirit by Howard Thurman

Studying Christian Spirituality by David Perrin

Course Requirements/Expectations

1. Class Participation: involves prompt attendance, preparation, participation, and completion of assigned readings and projects by the chosen date (10%)
2. Reflection Papers: 2-3 page written reflections on the assigned text(s) that not only display evidence of the student's reading but also answers how the student will integrate the ideas into her/his homiletic (15%)
3. Mini-Sermons: 1-3 minutes in length or as designated by the instructor; text assigned or student choice as listed in outline; no notes; in class evaluation. (20%)

4. Major Sermon: 12-15 minutes in length; must submit full manuscript on the date of the sermon prior to the sermon's delivery; must also supply blank VHS videotape for self evaluation and instructor's review; turn in self evaluation with the videotape at the next class period. A full manuscript, outline, notes, or extemporaneous delivery may be used for the preaching moment. (30%)
5. Journal: Keep a log of the impact each class has upon you and how you feel you have impacted each class session. Also note how the readings have impacted your thinking. You should have an entry for each class session and an entry for each group of readings. (25%)

Course Outline

Aug. 27	Introduction: In the Beginning...Spirit? Overview of syllabus, Introductory exercise, Lecture
Sept. 3	The Spirit is Willing, But... Readings: Perrin Intro, ch.1,5; Forbes Intro, ch.1 Mini-Sermons
Sept. 10	Spirituality and Theology Readings: Forbes ch.2,3; Perrin ch.3
Sept. 17	A Lamp Unto My Feet: Bible and Spirituality Readings: Forbes ch.4; Perrin ch.6; Kalas Intro, ch.1 Mini-Sermons
Sept. 24	Proclamation by the Spirit Readings: Kalas ch.2,3 Kalas Reflection Paper Due
Oct. 1	No Class
Oct. 8	No Class – Mid Term Recess
Oct. 15	Proclamation by the Spirit: Part 2 Readings: Kalas ch. 4-7; Forbes ch.5 Mini-Sermons
Oct. 22	Howard Thurman: A Minister of the Spirit Readings: Thurman (in its entirety) Forbes Reflection Paper Due / Major Sermons
Oct. 29	Prayer and Preaching Readings: Perrin ch.7,8 Thurman Reflection Paper Due / Major Sermons

- Nov. 5 Preaching Love or Social Justice?
Readings: Campbell (in its entirety)
Major Sermons
- Nov. 12 Miriam’s Song: Women and Preaching
Readings: Kim (in its entirety)
Major Sermons
- Nov. 19 Miriam’s Song (Reprise): Women and Preaching II
Readings: LaRue (in its entirety)
Major Sermons
- Nov. 26 **No Class – Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec. 3 Concluding Remarks, Evaluations
Journals Due
Mini-Sermons (one more time for the Holy Ghost)