

HM442 Prophetic Preaching Spring 2009

Thursdays 2:00-4:50 P.M.
Room G145
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Course Description & Pedagogical Strategy

This class is designed to assist students in learning, appreciating and being open to the prophetic tradition within Christian preaching. The history and theology of prophetic preaching; biblical exegesis for prophetic preaching; musicality, styles, designs, forms and diversity; and spirituality 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, and analysis of 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)

Blount, Brian K. *Can I Get a Witness: Reading Revelation through African American Culture*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780664228699

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. ISBN: 9780800632878

Campbell, Charles. *The Word Before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN: 9780664222338

Coffin, William S. *The Heart is a Little to the Left: Essays on Public Morality*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1999. ISBN: 9780874519587

McMickle, Marvin. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone: Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2006. ISBN: 9780829817201

Smith, Christine, ed. *Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998. ISBN: 9781606081426

*Thurman, Howard. *The Growing Edge*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1956. ISBN: 9780913408148 (Supplemental Reading)

Thurman, Howard. *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1979. ISBN: 9780156976480

Wogaman, Steven. *Speaking the Truth in Love: Prophetic Preaching to a Broken World*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998. ISBN: 9780664257743

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. (25%)
5. Final Paper: 8-10 page written mini-research paper that takes a position on a figure within the prophetic preaching tradition. The paper should include bibliography, footnotes/endnotes following the Kate Turabian style. The paper will be presented orally. Prior to this presentation, the researcher must submit her or his paper to a selected classmate, who will respond to the paper in class. (20%)
6. Response to a Final Paper: 2-3 page written reflection on the final paper of a selected classmate that includes the strengths, weaknesses and potential of that paper's position. This response will be presented orally and should generate healthy discussion. (10%)

Course Outline

Feb. 5	Introduction Overview of syllabus, Introductory exercise, Lecture
Feb. 12	I Am No Prophet: Roots of Prophetic Preaching Readings: Brueggemann (in its entirety) Brueggemann Reflection Paper Due
Feb. 19	Nurture: The Nature of Prophetic Preaching Readings: Wogaman Part 1
Feb. 26	Spiritual Warfare: The Content of Prophetic Preaching Readings: Campbell (in its entirety) Wogaman/Campbell Reflection Paper Due Mini-sermons
March 5	Mini-sermons Final Paper Proposal Due

March 12	No Class – Mid-Term Recess
March 19	In the Spotlight: Prophetic Preaching in the Public Square Readings: McMickle (in its entirety); Coffin (in its entirety) McMickle <u>or</u> Coffin Reflection Paper Due
March 26	Somewhere Over the Rainbow: Cultural Diversity in the Prophetic Readings: Blount (in its entirety); Smith ch.1,2,4-7
April 2	Mini-sermons
April 9	No Class – Holy Week Break
April 16	The Sexual Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Sexuality & Gender Issues / Howard Thurman: An Example of an American Prophet Readings: Smith ch.3,8; Thurman (in its entirety) Smith Reflection Paper Due
April 23	Major Sermons
April 30	Major Sermons
May 7	Major Sermons Final Papers Due to Respondents
May 14	Closing Reflections, Evaluations Final Paper Presentations & Responses