

HM300 Introduction to Preaching Spring 2010

Wednesdays 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, cultivating, enriching, and integrating the essentials for effective preaching within their ministerial vocations. The history and theology of preaching; biblical and congregational exegesis for preaching; homiletical style, design, form 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 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)

Fry Brown, Teresa L. *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation*.

Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780800604479

Craddock, Fred. *As One Without Authority*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001. ISBN: 9780827200265

Forbes, James. *The Holy Spirit and Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN:

9780687173099

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.

ISBN: 9780664229436

Lowry, Eugene. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

ISBN: 9780687015436

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

1990. ISBN: 9780687036141

Proctor, Samuel. *Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority*. Valley Forge:

Judson Press, PA, 1994. ISBN: 9780817012021

Rose, Lucy. *Sharing the Word: Preaching in the Roundtable Church*. Louisville: Westminster

John Knox Press, 1997. ISBN: 9780664256586

Tisdale, Nora. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

ISBN: 9780800627737

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 or blank DVD 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. Congregational Exegesis: 2-5 page written survey of a congregation of the student's choosing. Follow the handout and the model provided in *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. (15%)
6. Sermon Analysis: 1-2 page reflection on a published sermon that includes bibliographic information, text, focus, language, style, worldview, images, and form of that sermon. Three sermons must be analyzed. (15%)

Course Outline

Feb. 3	Introduction: To Preach or Not to Preach? Overview of syllabus, Introductory exercise, Lecture
Feb. 10	To Preach or Not to Preach? (Part 2) Readings: Forbes (in its entirety) Forbes Reflection Paper Due
Feb. 17	Homiletical Sankofa: Roots of Preaching / Preaching with Meaning: Theology in and of Preaching Readings: Proctor Intro; Tisdale ch.1; Long ch.1; Wilson (SharePoint)
Feb. 24	Can You Preach in a Vacuum?: Congregational Exegesis / For the Bible Tells Me So: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching Readings: Tisdale ch.2,3; Long ch.2,3; Lowry Video (in class)
March 3	Mini-sermons
March 10	Getting Started & Putting the Sermon Together Readings: Proctor ch.1-6; Long ch.4-7

March 17	More Homiletical Methods & Forms / Imagining the Sermon: Imagery, Illustrations, Language Readings: Craddock ch.3-7; Lowry (in its entirety); Rose ch.4,5; Long ch.8; Preaching (SharePoint); Taylor Video (in class)
March 24	Finding Your Voice: Locating your style & comfort zone / Maintaining a Healthy Voice Readings: Fry Brown (in its entirety) Mini-Sermons Congregational Exegesis Due
March 31	NO Class – Holy Week Recess
April 7	No Class – Spring Break
April 14	Minority Voices & Social Justice in Preaching/Preaching in Diversity Readings: Mitchell (in its entirety) Major Sermons Fry Brown Paper Due
April 21	Major Sermons
April 28	Major Sermons Mitchell Reflection Paper Due
May 5	‘Til Death Do Us Part: Weddings, Funerals & Other Events Major Sermons Sermon Analyses Due
May 12	Closing Reflections, Evaluations Mini-Sermons (one more for the Holy Ghost!)