

HM435 African American Preaching Spring 2009

Wednesdays 6:30-9:20 P.M.
Room G145
Rev. Patrick Clayborn, Instructor
Office G235
Phone: 740-362-3448
Email: pclayborn@mtso.edu

Course Description & Pedagogical Strategy

This class is designed to assist students in learning, appreciating and being open to the tradition of African American preaching. The history and theology of African American preaching; biblical exegesis for African American preaching; homiletical 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)

Brown, Michael J. *Blackening of the Bible: The Aims of African American Biblical Scholarship*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2004. ISBN: 9781563383632

Harris, James. *Preaching Liberation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995. ISBN: 9780800628413

Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990. ISBN: 9780687036141

Mitchem, Stephanie Y. *Name It and Claim It: Prosperity Preaching in the Black Church*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780829817096

Moyd, Olin P. *The Sacred Art: Preaching and Theology in the African American Tradition*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1995. ISBN: 9780817012205

LaRue, Cleophus J. *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000. ISBN: 9780664258474

Fry Brown, Teresa L. *Weary Throats and New Songs: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN: 9780687030132

Lincoln, C. Eric and Mamiya, Lawrence H. *The Black Church in the African American Experience*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1990. ISBN: 9780822310730

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 either a concept or figure within the African American 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. 4	Introduction Overview of syllabus, Introductory exercise, Lecture
Feb. 11	*Black History Program in the chapel* Readings: Lincoln ch.1 (ch.2-6 optional); LaRue ch.1,2; Mitchell ch.1-3 LaRue Reflection Paper Due
Feb. 18	Sankofa: Roots of African American Preaching / It Ain't Necessarily So: African American Biblical Exegesis Readings: Mitchell ch.4; Brown ch.1-3
Feb. 25	Fight the Power: Black Theology Readings: Moyd ch.1-3; Harris Intro, ch.1-3 Moyd/Harris Reflection Paper Due Mini-sermons
March 4	Mini-sermons Final Paper Proposal Due

March 11	No Class – Mid-Term Recess
March 18	<p>“Mo’ Money, Mo’ Money, Mo’ Money” vs. “Mo’ Money, Mo’ Problems”: Prosperity Preaching vs. the Prophetic Tradition Readings: Mitchem (in its entirety); LaRue ch.3; Lincoln ch.7-9 Brown ch.5 (optional) Mitchem Reflection Paper Due</p>
March 25	<p>Early Sunday Morning!: Good Friday & Easter Sermons / I Feel My Help Coming On!: Celebration in Preaching / Let the Rhythm Hit ‘Em: Music & Call and Response Readings: Moyd ch.4-7; Lincoln ch.12; Handout (SharePoint); Mitchell ch.5-8</p>
April 1	Mini-sermons
April 8	No Class – Holy Week Break
April 15	<p>She Keeps So Busy Praisin’ Her Jesus: Womanist Tradition / Finishing Touches Readings: Fry Brown (in its entirety); Brown ch.4; Handout (SharePoint) LaRue ch.4; Mitchell ch.9 Fry Brown Reflection Paper Due Tag-Team Mini Sermons</p>
April 22	Major Sermons
April 29	Major Sermons
May 6	<p>Major Sermons Final Papers Due to Respondents</p>
May 13	<p>Closing Reflections, Evaluations Readings: Brown ch.6; Moyd ch.8; Lincoln ch.13 Final Paper Presentations & Responses</p>