

HM 442: NARRATIVE AND PROPHETIC PREACHING

Spring 2010

Thursdays, 2:00-4:50 pm

Bishop Judith Craig

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Prophetic preaching is sometimes seen as troubling, challenging parishioners in ways they do not enjoy. If we take seriously the whole narrative of the Bible, it is a call to prophetic action. In this course we will practice the skill of linking the ancient narrative to the contemporary scene in a way that is authentically prophetic. The course will consist of reading and reflection in class, as well as preparation and presentation of mini-sermons (5 minutes), sermon core ideas and full sermons (14-16 minutes).

READINGS

Prophetic Preaching, Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Westminster John Knox Press, 2010

The Homiletical Plot, Eugene L. Lowry, Westminster John Knox, 2001

With God in the Crucible, Peter Storey, Abingdon, Press, 2002

What's the Shape of Narrative Preaching?, ed. Mike Graves and David Schlafer, Chalice Press, 2008

Lectionary readings for Advent, 2011, year B

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS

The Orthodox Heretic, Peter Rollins, Paraclete Press, 2009

Voicing the Vision: Imagination and Prophetic Preaching, Linda L. Clader, Morehouse, 2003

The Sermon, Dancing the Edge of Mystery, Eugene L. Lowry, Abingdon, 1997

The Strength to Love, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fortress Press, 1981

ASSIGNMENTS

Regular class attendance and full participation in discussion, showing evidencing of having read the assigned texts for the week. (5 pts.)

One five-minute "mini sermon" using one of the Advent lections. (15)

Two sermon core ideas. A one page description of the central idea to be communicated and a suggested opening paragraph of the sermon. (15)

Two full sermons, 14-16 minutes long, presented in written form, using the Advent lectionary selections. One of the two sermons will be presented orally, and should include hymns, and other suggested elements of liturgy appropriate to its content. (20 each)

A three page paper, due mid-term, identifying questions and reservations about being a prophetic preacher. (10)

A final paper, 5-7 pages, making a theological and liturgical case for the place of prophetic preaching in congregational life and leadership as pastor and preacher, and the way narrative enhances such preaching. (15)

Grading

97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	82-80	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	F

Language:

All writings and oral presentations should reflect “generous” language in reference both to humans and God.

Written Work:

All written work must be posted on Sharepoint by the noon on the day it is due. Proper use of grammar and punctuation is expected.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If a student has questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.

ADA:

MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact Leslie Taylor,

Director of Student Services at 740.362.3126 (ltaylor@mtso.edu) in room 129 of Werner Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.

CLASS SCHEDULE

February 3

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Self introductions
Name. What preaching courses have you taken? Who taught?
When? One major learning from that course. How often do you preach now?
- ◆ Discussion
What kinds of preaching can you identify?
What is the role of the sermon in the life of a congregation?
What is narrative preaching?
For next week:
Read Lowry
Read Graves and Schlafer, Part 1

February 10

- ◆ When you are preparing a sermon, what are the first five things you do?
- ◆ Discussion of The Homiletical Plot
- ◆ Discussion of Part 1 in Graves and Schlafer
For next week:
Graves and Schlafer, Parts 2 and 3. Pick one essay and write a one page reflection on what the essay means for your development as a preaching

February 17

- ◆ Discussion of Parts 2 & 3 in Graves and Schlafer
- ◆ Small Group discussion of one-page papers
For next week:
Read Tisdale, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

February 24

- ◆ Discussion of Tisdale

- ♦ Look at Advent 1 Texts
 - Where is the prophetic claim in these texts?
- ♦ Develop guides for listening to sermons
 - Develop format for evaluating sermons
 - How should we listen?
 - For what should we listen?
 - The practice of positive feedback.
 - For next week:**
 - Finish Tisdale
 - 5-minute mini sermon based on Advent 1 text

March 3

- ♦ Discuss Tisdale
- ♦ Consider texts for Advent 2
- ♦ 5 minute mini sermons based on Advent 1 (6 presenters)
 - For next week**
 - Read Storey, pgs. 9-102
 - 5-minute mini sermon based on Advent 2 text

March 10

- ♦ Discussion of Storey
- ♦ Consider texts for Advent 3
- ♦ 5 minute mini sermons based on Advent 2 (7 presenters)
 - For next week**
 - Finish Storey
 - Mid-term paper
 - 5-minute sermon based on Advent 3

March 17

- ♦ Mid term paper due
- ♦ Discuss Storey
- ♦ Consider texts for Advent 4
- ♦ 5 minute mini sermons based on Advent 3 (7 presenters)
 - For next class**
 - Outlines of sermons on Advent 1 and 2

*****BREAK WEEK*****

March 31

- ♦ Discuss core ideas on Advent 1 and 2
 - What is the prophetic call?
 - How will narrative be used?
 - What stumbling blocks do you see?
- ♦ Select dates for preaching
 - For next class**

Outlines of sermons on Advent 3 & 4

April 7

- ♦Discuss core ideas on Advent 3 and 4
See question March 31
- ♦Review guidelines for evaluating sermons

For next week

Full-length sermons based on Advent texts.
With the one to present orally, include hymns and at least two other liturgical acts (call to worship, responsive act, prayers, etc)

April 14

- ♦Submit written sermons
- ♦Preaching of Sermons and feedback (6)

*****HOLY WEEK *****

April 28

- ♦Preaching of Sermons and feedback (6)

May 5

- ♦Preaching of Sermons and feedback (6)

May 12

- ♦Preaching of sermons and feedback (2)

For next week

Final Paper due

May 19

- ♦Final Paper due