

HM 740 – Narrative Faith Development and Prophetic Preaching

Spring 2014: 2.00 – 4.50 pm, Thursdays in Room G-140 or Centrum

Bishop Judith Craig and Dr. Lisa Withrow

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Meetings by appointment

Purpose

Prophetic preaching points out the distance between the way things are and the way God desires them to be. The purpose of this course is to learn prophetic styles of preaching as one of the viable forms of bringing the Word alive in congregations addressing violence and injustice in the current era.

Content

The course will include discussion of readings, use of a particular New Testament text, and practices of preaching in front of peers and instructors.

Method

The primary approach to exegesis and oral skill-development will occur through biblical research, improvisational speaking, planned sermons, and preaching as practice for homiletical development.

Outcomes

Students should learn about their own styles for prophetic preaching and develop competency in interaction with other styles. Articulating the well-studied Word in theologically transformative frameworks for self and community in ministerial contexts will be an essential outcome from the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Preacher King, Richard Lischer (Oxford University Press, 1995).

Preaching the Sermon on the Mount, David Fleer and Dave Bland, editors
(Chalice Press, 2007).

Craddock on the Craft of Preaching, Lee Sparks and Kathryn Hayes Sparks, editors
(Chalice Press, 2011).

Prophetic Preaching, Lenora Tubbs Tisdale (Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).

Supplemental Texts:

Transforming the Stone, Barbara K. Lundblad (Abingdon Press, 2001).

Building a Community of Believers, Walter R. Dickhaut (Wipf & Stock, 2013).

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Full attendance and participation in the course, with evidence of familiarity with the texts.
2. Use the *Turabian* manual for information about citations and research as necessary. When quoting authors used from the required texts list in this course, students should cite them in footnotes in the Turabian style.

3. Please turn in papers via Sakai in Drop Box folders that are available for each assignment by 2.00 pm on the due date. <https://sakai.mtso-tls.org> under the HM740 tab.
4. Papers should be submitted in Cambria or Calibri font (or the Mac equivalent), 12 pt., with 1-inch margins left/right.
5. Pay attention to grammar. You will be writing in your career after MTSO and proper grammar usage reflects on your competency as a leader.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Write and preach 2 15-minute sermons. **First set of sermons due March 20 and March 27, with ALL manuscripts due March 20.** Texts will be chosen from the Sermon on the Mount, pericope of student's most favored choice. **Second set of sermons due May 1 and May 8, with ALL manuscripts due May 1,** also based the Sermon on the Mount, pericope of student's least favorite choice. Bishop Craig and Dr. Withrow will listen to sermons of 9 or 10 people in each set (2 groups, 4-5 preachers per day in each group). Students should be highly attentive to the 15-minute time limit. **20% each sermon and written manuscript (40%)**
2. Write a 900-1000 word paper discussing your understanding of self as prophetic preacher, including your personal response to this style of preaching. **Due February 13. 20%**
3. Write an 1800-2000 word final paper making the case for the importance of prophetic preaching in any congregation, and its place among other styles of preaching. **Due May 22 (Seniors – due May 15). 30%**
4. Participation. **10%**

CLASS SCHEDULE:

February 6

Introductions

Course description and expectations

Discussion:

Who do you think of as prophetic preachers? Why?

Do you see yourself as prophetic?

Writing exercise: What do you bring to prophetic preaching? What do you need to learn?

Improvisational Speaking

Video (sermon and discussion)

Due next week: Lischer, Part I; Tisdale, chapters 1-2; paper on self as prophetic preacher; attendance at Schooler Institute on Preaching if personal schedule allows

February 10-11: Schooler Institute on Preaching takes place with The Rev. Dr. Mark Kelly Tyler as featured preacher, focusing on prophetic preaching (see <http://www.mtso.edu/alumni-friends/alumni/schooler-institute-on-preaching/> for description and schedule). We recommend attendance for at least one event if possible.

February 13

Due today: Lischer, Part I; Tisdale, chapters 1-2; paper on self as prophetic preacher

Discussion:

Feedback on Schooler

Why context matters – social location, geography, worship setting, worship flow

King's context

Student context

Self as prophetic preacher (discussing papers)

Class exercise on exegeting contexts

Due next week: Lischer, Section II; Tisdale, chapters 3-4

February 20

Due today: Lischer, Section II; Tisdale, chapters 3-4

Sermon listening guide – how to listen and critique

Setting oneself up for the week before a sermon – reading, exegesis,

exercises for depth of thought, writing the sermon, practicing

The use of lectionary, sermon series, or personal scriptural choices – which ones for what occasions?

Discussion:

Lischer and Tisdale

Improviseational Speaking

Video (sermon and discussion)

Due next week: Lischer, Section III; Tisdale, chapter 5

February 27

Due today: Lischer, Section III; Tisdale, chapter 5

Discussion:

The impact of prophetic preaching – King

Student prophetic preaching

Reading the Sermon on the Mount

Preaching description for first sermon: choose pericope from Sermon on the Mount
(text that is appealing)

Due next week: Pericope choice for first sermon; Sparks and Sparks, chapters 1, 7, 8

March 6

Due today: Pericope choice for first sermon; Sparks and Sparks, chapters 1, 7, 8

Discussion:

Sparks x 2

Group work with Sermon on the Mount pericopes

Sign up for preaching dates and times

Due next week: Sparks and Sparks, chapters 10-14; Fleer and Bland, Introduction, chapters 1-3

March 13

Due today: Sparks and Sparks, chapters 10-14; Fleer and Bland, Introduction, chapters 1-3

Discussion:

Sparks x 2

Fleer and Bland

Group work with Sermon on the Mount pericopes

Due next week: first group of preachers/ALL written manuscripts; Fleer and Bland, chapters 4-6

March 20

Due today: first group of preachers/ALL written manuscripts; Fleer and Bland, chapters 4-6

Discussion:

Fleer and Bland

Preaching events and critiques – 2 groups

Due next week: second group of preachers

March 27

Due today: second group of preachers

Preaching events and critiques – 2 groups

Feedback in class on preaching experiences

Due next week: Choice of 2nd text from the Sermon on the Mount
(text the preacher is less likely to choose)

April 3

Due today: Choice of 2nd text from the Sermon on the Mount

Video (sermon and discussion)

Group work with Sermon on the Mount pericopes

No assignment over Break and Holy Week (visit a worship service that emphasizes social justice and prophetic work/preaching if possible over break)

Break and Holy Week

April 24

Guest preacher(s)

Discussion

Due next week: first group of preachers/ALL written manuscripts

May 1

Due today: first group of preachers/ALL written manuscripts

Preaching events and critiques – 2 groups
Feedback in class on preaching experiences
Discussion:

The significance of encountering texts that are difficult

Due next week: second group of preachers

May 8

Due today: second group of preachers

Preaching events and critiques – 2 groups
Feedback in class on preaching experiences

Due next week: Verbal statement about what student has learned,
what student hopes to do with learning, and how prophetic preaching
will be developed in the future.

May 15

Due today: Verbal statement about what student has learned,
what student hopes to do with learning, and how prophetic preaching
will be developed in the future.

Final papers due from seniors ONLY

Discussion about issue due today
Any sermons not heard
Video (sermon and discussion)
Course critique and Evaluation
Sending forth!

Due next week: Final paper

May 22 - Finals Week (no class)

Final paper due at 2.00 pm in the Dropbox. No extensions.

NOTES:

Please see Student Handbook for sections providing policy details on the following:

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 the Director of Student Services 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 attendance—Regular attendance is expected in all classes. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will not be allowed credit for a course if he or she is absent for 25% of the class sessions.

Electronic Devices—Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices.

Human Subjects Research—Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

Inclusive Language—In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

Incompletes—To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

Pass/Fail—The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second day of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of “pass” the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.

Plagiarism—Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the master’s 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.