

Basic Preaching

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Spring 2009
Schlegel Hall
Monday 2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

This course provides an introduction to the nature and process of relevant and engaging preaching. In plenary sessions, students will be provided a brief history of Christian preaching along with tools to accomplish the weekly tasks of preaching including: exegesis, hermeneutics, theological and cultural analysis, sermon structuring/formation and delivery/performance. In practicums students will learn give and receive constructive, critical feedback on sermon structuring/formation and delivery.

Note: *Biblical exegesis is a prerequisite for this course.*

By the end of the course (course objectives):

- 1) Students will understand how Christian preaching evolved over the centuries
- 2) Students will develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills for preaching
- 3) Students will understand the connection between theology and preaching
- 4) Students will learn several different sermon forms/structures
- 5) Students will learn communication skills for effective sermon delivery
- 6) Students will vow to become unselfish preachers

Required Readings:

Allen, Ronald J. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend every class session and actively participate in class discussions. **(12%)**
2. Each student will place in the digital dropbox of Blackboard at least one discussion question for each reading assigned during the semester by 6 p.m the day before the assignment is due. (For example, the question for the reading assigned for Tuesday, September 25 is due on Monday, September 24 by 6 p.m.) Questions can represent

- issues or concerns raised by the author that need further clarification or issues and concerns not addressed by the author but which were raised by the reading in the mind of the reader. **(18%)**
3. Each student will submit two 5-7 page exegetical papers on a scripture passage of her/his choice (one in the Hebrew bible **due March 2** and one in the New Testament **due April 20**). The passages chosen should be the same passages used to develop the sermons. Guidelines for the exegetical papers are included with this syllabus. **(20%)**
 4. Each student will develop and present in class a story following the pattern of Eugene Lowry's homiletical loop. **Due March 9 (15%)**
 5. Each student will also preach two 12-15 minute sermons. Along with the sermon, each student must submit a transcript or outline of the sermon along with details about the preaching context, occasion, and hearers. **(Total 35%, the first sermon will be worth 15%, second sermon 20%).**
 6. Students are required to bring a video tape (VHS) on the days they preach to record sermons.

Note: All readings listed on syllabus are posted on the Blackboard course site

Spring Semester 2009 Class Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| February 9, 2009 | <p>Introduction to the course and students
Defining preaching</p> <p>“Preaching as Theological Interpretation”
Allen, Ronald J. <i>Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching</i>.
St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998. 65-81</p> <p>Speech Communication for Preaching
“Performing the Text”
Childers, Jana. <i>Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre</i>. Nashville,
TN: Abingdon Press, 1998. 78-98</p> |
| February 16, 2009 | <p>“Biblical Exegesis for Preaching”
Long, Thomas G. <i>The Witness of Preaching</i>. 1st ed. Louisville, KY:
Westminster/J. Knox Press, 1989. 60-77</p> <p>Introduction to Sermon Forms
“A Smorgasbord of Patterns of Movement for the Sermon”
Allen, Ronald J. <i>Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching</i>.
St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998. 177-205</p> |
| February 23, 2009 | <p>Sermon Forms
“Designing the Narrative/Story Sermon” 35-49</p> |

Massey, James Earl. *Designing the Sermon: Order and Movement in Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

“Movies, Pages, and God”

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999. 9-29

Scripture Reading

March 2, 2009

Sermon Forms

“Shape...Strategy”

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997. 54-89

Exegetical Papers Due

Scripture Reading

March 9, 2009

Stories Due in Class

Exegetical Papers Returned

March 16, 2009

Sermon Manuscripts Due

Anxiety and Preaching

March 23, 2009

Research and Study Week

March 30, 2009

Sermon Presentations

April 6, 2009

Sermon Presentations

April 13, 2009

Preaching and Culture

“Introduction” 1-10

“The Congregation” 11-43

Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian American Perspective*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1999.

“Who Do They Think I Am” 47-88

Hogan, Lucy Lind, and Robert Reid. *Connecting with the Congregation: Rhetoric and the Art of Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.

April 20, 2009

Exegetical Papers Due

Personal Story in Preaching

“Personal Illustrations” 141-143

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987).

“The Case for Personal Story” 11-29

Thulin, Richard. *The “I” of the Sermon.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1989.

Prophetic Preaching

“Handicappism” 15-37

“Ageism” 38-61

Smith, Christine. *Preaching as Weeping, Confession, and Resistance: Responses to Radical Evil.* Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.

April 27, 2009	Preaching Practicum Exegetical Papers Returned Sermon manuscripts Due
May 4, 2009	Sermon Presentations
May 11, 2009	Sermon Presentations

Guidelines for the Exegetical Papers (20%)

Each student must submit two 5-7 page exegetical paper on a text of their choice. **These papers is due on March 17 (Hebrew bible) and April 21 (New Testament).** In *The Witness of Preaching*, Thomas Long presents a brief method of exegesis for preaching. Details about what is required in each section are contained in the reading. The reading is posted on the course website. The paper must include each of the following sections:

- I. Getting the Text in View
 - a. Selecting the text
 - b. Reconsider where the text begins and ends
 - c. Establish a reliable translation of the text
- II. Getting Introduced to the Text
 - a. Read the text for basic understanding
 - b. Place the text in its larger context
- III. Attending to the Text
 - a. Listen attentively to the text
- IV. Testing What is Heard in the Text
 - a. Explore the text historically
 - b. Explore the literary character of the text
 - c. Explore the text theologically (God in relation to humanity)
 - d. Check text in commentaries
 - e. “Moving Toward the Sermon:” State the claim of the text upon the hearers and preacher

Other Expectations

Mutual Respect

During class, each person is required to respect her/his classmates and the instructor by arriving to class on time, listening attentively to the thoughts and opinions of others, providing constructive feedback to sermons of others, and turning off cell phones before class begins.

Written Assignments

1. All written assignments should be doubled-spaced.
2. All margins should be 1-inch (left, right, top, bottom).
3. All ideas and thoughts that are not original should be footnoted. Each footnote should begin a new line, **indented the same as amount at paragraphs.**
4. Font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
5. Spell check all assignments before submitting.
6. Do not include a cover page or place papers in folders.
7. Staple pages of exegetical papers together.
8. Include a header or footer with student name, submission date, and page numbers on each page.

All assignments are to be turned in on the due date by 6:00 p.m. through Blackboard Digital Drop Box. **Assignments submitted late will be penalized twenty five percent per day.** The only exceptions for late work being penalized are in **cases of medical emergency or death in the family.** Preaching dates will be selected and negotiated in class. Once a date is set, do not expect to change it. Except in the event of a catastrophe, failure to preach on the assigned date is subject to a grade of “zero” for that sermon.

Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities.

Plagiarism

It is expected that students will perform all written and oral assignments with complete academic integrity by only submitting papers and preaching/submitting sermons with their own original thoughts and ideas. When using thoughts and idea of others, students are to properly attribute credit in footnotes. Any instances of plagiarism discovered will be reported to the Dean’s office. Two reports of plagiarism constitute grounds for dismissal from LPTS.

Bibliography

- Allen, Ronald J. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998.
- Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987).
- Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Edwards, O.C. Jr. *A History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- Hogan, Lucy Lind, and Robert Reid. *Connecting with the Congregation: Rhetoric and the Art of Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian American Perspective*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1999.
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- Lowry, Eugene L. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- Massey, James Earl. *Designing the Sermon: Order and Movement in Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.
- Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching*. 1st ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1970.
- Nieman, James R., and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Resner, Andre, Jr. *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2003.
- Smith, Christine. *Preaching as Weeping, Confession, and Resistance: Responses to Radical Evil*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.
- Thulin, Richard. *The "I" of the Sermon*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.