

Basic Preaching

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Spring 2008
Schlegel Hall
Monday 6:00 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - noon

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:

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

All other course reading will be posted on Blackboard course site.

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 10** and one in the New Testament **due April 21**). 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 attend at least one lecture/master class and one worship service during the Festival of Theology and submit a 3-4 page summary report. Guidelines are provided on the syllabus. **Due March 10. (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 2008 Class Schedule

- February 11, 2008 **Introduction to the course and students**
 Defining preaching
- Brief introduction to the History of Christian Preaching**
 “The Earliest Christian Preaching” 3-21
 “Homiletics and Catechetics: Chrysostom and Others” 72-94
 “Calvin and the Reform Tradition” 304-322
- (all above readings in)
 Edwards, O.C. Jr. A History of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- February 18, 2008 **Brief Introduction to the History of Christian Preaching**
 “The Fruits of Fervor: Among African Americans” 526-553
 Edwards, O.C. Jr. A History of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- (Preface)** Vatican II and the Liturgical Renewal Movement vii-xi
 Waznak, Robert P. An Introduction to the Homily. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998.

“A Crisis in Communication” 798-821

Edwards, O.C. Jr. *A History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.

“Preaching as Theological Interpretation”

Allen, Ronald J. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998. 65-81

February 25, 2008

“Biblical Exegesis for Preaching”

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster/J. Knox Press, 1989. 60-77

Introduction to Sermon Forms**“A Smorgasbord of Patterns of Movement for the Sermon”**

Allen, Ronald J. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998. 177-205

March 3, 2008

Festival of Theology

March 10, 2008

Festival of Theology Summary Report Due

Sermon Forms

“Designing the Narrative/Story Sermon” 35-49

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

March 17, 2008

Exegetical Papers Due

(Papers to be returned before research and study week)

Sermon Forms

“Shape....Strategy”

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

Exegetical Papers Due

Speech Communication for Preaching

“Performing the Text”

Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998. 78-98

- March 24, 2008 Research and Study Week
- March 31, 2008 **Sermon Presentations**
- April 7, 2008 **Preaching and Culture**
 “Why Black Preaching” 11-22
 “Personal Style in Black Preaching” 88-99
 Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching*. 1st ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1970.
- “The Frame of Class” 55-83
 “The Frame of Displacement” 84-111
 Nieman, James R., and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.
- April 14, 2008 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 21, 2008 **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 28, 2008 **Prophetic Preaching**
 “Sexism” 62-86
 “Heterosexism” 87-109

“White Racism” 110-134

Andrews, Dale. “Preaching a Just Word in Privileged Pulpits: Healing Affluenza” 169-177

Edleman, Marian Wright. “Time of Trouble: The Assault of Poverty on America’s Children.” 121-129

Burghardt, Walter. “God’s Justice and America’s Sixth Child.” 131-137

Resner, Andre, Jr. *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2003.

May 5, 2008

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

Festival of Theology Summary Report (Due March 10, 15%)

Sunday, March 3 – Wednesday, March 5 is the annual Festival of Theology. Each student is required to attend one lecture and one worship service. During the festival four preachers will each present a sermon, lecture, and facilitate a master class. In order for students to receive credit for the assignment, they must submit a report on a sermon and lecture and/or master class give by the same preacher. For example, if the student attends the lecture for Anna Carter Florence, she or he is also required to attend the worship service at which Florence is preaching. The following are questions to be answered in 3-4 double spaced page report.

Lecture/Master Class

1. Identify the name of the lecturer/preacher.
2. What was the theme of the lecture?
3. What were the main ideas being conveyed?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the lecturer's main ideas? Explain why you agree or disagree.

Sermon

1. What was the theme of the sermon?
2. Did the sermon successfully embody the theme of the lecture? If not, what ideas or arguments of the lecture were missing?
3. What stories/illustrations did the preacher use in the sermon?
4. What was the basic structure and form of the sermon?
5. Was the sermon easy to follow and understand?
6. Will you use the preacher's sermon ideas for your own preaching?

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.

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 five points 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.
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- 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.