

**Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary**  
**31-607 – Advanced Preaching**

Instructors: Dr. Gennifer Brooks  
E-mail – [gennifer.brooks@garrett.edu](mailto:gennifer.brooks@garrett.edu)

Dr. Mark Fowler  
[mark.fowler@garrett.edu](mailto:mark.fowler@garrett.edu)

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**Office:** Brooks: Room 714  
Fowler: Stead Room 302

**Telephone #:** Brooks: 847-866-3888  
Fowler: 847-866-3863

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10-30 a.am. – 3:30 p.m. (Brooks) or by appointment.

**Class Hours:** Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to meet the needs of the serious preacher, particularly local church pastors who must prepare and deliver a sermon each week. The course has a two-fold and complimentary focus. It is intended to help students to increase and improve the skills needed to create effective sermons of varied styles, which are appropriate to the contexts of the Biblical text, the culture of society and their particular community, and the situations that define the particular preaching moment. It also aims to allow students to enhance their performance so that they can embody the good news of the text and help the hearers to receive the message of the gospel in a way that is affirming and inspires their discipleship in the world. Generally the course will help students to advance and strengthen their preaching skills through practical application of techniques in the preparation of sermons weekly and their performance in engaging different types of the biblical text and delivering several different styles of sermons during the period of the course, with attention given to the visual and electronic nature of twenty-first century society.

**Course Objectives:**

- **Knowing:** By using different structures in sermon creation and delivery methods such as rhetoric and other performance models that aid in delivery of sermons, student will gain homiletical knowledge and preaching skills that will enable them to meet the varying needs of diverse congregational settings and occasions.
- **Being:** Become preachers in the full sense of the word, which includes being more proficient interpreters and proclaimers of the entire canon of scripture so that it is representative of and consistent with the good news of Jesus Christ; and so that in each act of preaching they embody the good news of the sermon.

- **Doing:** Create sermons for preaching weekly in a local church that engages the ecclesial responsibility of the pastor and engages the pastoral responsibility imbedded in the Great Commission, namely developing Christian disciples.

### **Class Assumptions and Expectations:**

1. That each member of the class understands and values the place of preaching as intrinsic to the proclamation of the Gospel.
2. That each student has a sound theology and sufficient knowledge and understanding of the biblical text, as foundational to preaching.
3. That each student will approach the task of preaching and the work of this course seriously and conscientiously.
4. That each student will participate in and contribute fully to the development of all their classmates in a spirit of collegiality and support and not one of competition.
5. That each student understands and will adhere to the spirit and the substance of inclusiveness for both God and humanity in both sermons and other written work.
6. That all students understand and adhere to G-ETS policies on plagiarism (see G-ETS student handbook). This includes understanding of the method of citation that is required in sermons and in homiletical exegesis.
7. That the schedule and syllabus may be modified and additional material added as the professor considers necessary to the course for the benefit of students.

### **Class Requirements:**

1. Be present and on time for all class sessions. Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance. Late arrival at classes will also be considered in determining class attendance.
2. Read all textbooks and class material and be prepared to participate actively in class sessions and be a contributor to all class discussions.
3. Develop and present or preach sermons as assigned. The schedule is designed to allow students the opportunity to practice different styles of sermons. Students will develop sermons weekly, some of which will be preached in class and recorded for review with the professor.
4. Participate in a one-on-one session with each professor that addresses the student's work in both developing and proclaiming the sermon.

### **Classroom Culture:**

- **A Culture of Respect:** In order to maintain a culture of respect for human diversity and collegiality within the classroom, students are expected to engage the professor and their fellow students as colleagues and to receive all material with respect for the author. Participation in class activities must take into account the right of every student to be heard and avoid interrupting the presentations of others or claiming an inordinate amount of time in putting forward their own point of view such that it prevents the engagement of other students.
- **Preparation for Class Participation:** The textbooks assigned for this class have been chosen to offer a balanced presentation of the material. Students are asked to read the

material assigned in order to participate fully in class discussions. You are not required to submit a formal paper for each of the textbooks, but having an outline or notes will help to facilitate your knowledge of the information provided.

- **Laptop Usage in Class:** Because of the inability to ensure that students use laptops only to take notes in class, the use of laptops is permitted only with specific approval from the professor. Students who wish to use their laptops in class, must sign a covenantal agreement regarding its use, prior to their use of their laptops. Students that use their laptop for anything other than specific class work will be disallowed from further class use.
- **Telephone Calls:** Please turn off your telephone when you come to class. If there is an ongoing emergency situation that may require you to receive a call, please let me know before class begins. When that is the case, please put your phone on vibrate and leave the classroom before answering any call that you receive.

### **Class Work and Grading**

In preparation for their responsibility as pastor in a local congregation, students are expected to prepare a sermon each week beginning with the first week – no exceptions. Sermons will be preached or presented in class and will participate in giving feedback to each other. Students will be required to preach one final sermon in chapel and lead a discussion on the sermon that includes the choice of scripture, the contextual analysis, the homiletical exegesis performed, the sermon style, the choice and content of the good news proclaimed and the sermonic message delivered and the overall work done in developing the sermon for preaching.

Students come into the class assigned with a grade of A and will keep that grade by doing all the assigned work and showing progress in their development as a preacher. The grade will be reduced in accordance with the amount of work that is not completed or not submitted on schedule and on evidence or lack of progress.

### **Required Texts: (Prices listed reflect the original publisher's price)**

1. Allen, O. Wesley. *The Homiletic of ALL Believers: A Conversational Approach*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780664228606 \$25.00
2. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0829819380 \$20.00
3. Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Preaching as Theatre. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-687-07423-1 \$19.99
4. Cosgrove, Charles H. and W. Dow Edgerton. *In Other Words: Incarnational Translation for Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007 ISBN-10: 080284037X ISBN-13: 978-0802840370 \$18.00
5. Holbert, John C. and Alyce M. McKenzie. *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes That Can Sink Your Sermon*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23510-9 \$20.00
6. Lose, David. *Preaching at the Crossroads: How the World – and Our Preaching – Is Changing*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8006-9973-4 \$19.00

7. Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Beat: Why All Sermons are Narrative*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-5143-1 \$16.99
8. **The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (Please have your Bible available at each class.)**

**Secondary Texts: (Prices listed reflect the original publisher's price)**

1. Childers, Jana and Clayton J. Schmit, editors. *Performance in Preaching: Bringing the Sermon to Life*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 2006 ISBN-13: 9780664227814 ISBN: 0664227813 \$21.59
2. Gilbert, Kenyatta. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8006-9627-6 \$20.00
3. Kim, Eunjoo *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 \$25.00
4. Lischer, Richard. *The End of Words: the Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*. ISBN 9 780802 829320 \$18.00
5. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780800663537 \$12.00
6. Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 \$21.00.
7. Plantinga, Cornelius Jr. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2013 ISBN 978-0-8028-7077-3 \$14.00
8. Satterlee, Craig. *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow*. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute. ISBN: 978-1-56699-417-0 \$17.00
9. Satterlee, Craig A. *When God Speaks Through You: How Faith Convictions Shape Preaching and Mission*. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute. ISBN: 978-1-56699-353-1 \$17.00
10. Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23510-9 \$20.00
11. Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23332-7 \$16.00

**Pre-Class Assignment:**

Students are required to read the text *In Other Words: Incarnational Translation for Preaching* by Cosgrove and Edgerton as background material for understanding the importance of contextualization of the biblical text for preaching sermons that engage the hearers. Please prepare a 3-5 page paper that engages your understanding of the tenets of the authors for the first class.

**Schedule of Class Sessions: TBA**

### **Selected Bibliography:**

- Aden, LeRoy H. and Robert G. Hughes. *Preaching God's Compassion*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Allen, Ronald J. *Hearing the Sermon: Relationship/Content/Feeling*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2004.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Buttrick, David. *Speaking Conflict: Stories of a Controversial Jesus*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Speaking Jesus: Homiletic Theology and the Sermon on the Mount*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.
- Campbell, Charles. *The Word before the Powers*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.
- Clader, Linda L. *Voicing the Vision: Imagination and Prophetic Preaching*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2003.
- Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority: Revised and with New Sermons*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Overhearing the Gospel Revised and Expanded*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2002.
- Dally, John Addison. *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*. The Alban Institute, 2008.
- Davis, Ellen F. *Wondrous Depth: Preaching the Old Testament*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.
- Edwards Jr., O.C. *A History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- Florence, Anna Carter. *Preaching as Testimony*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.
- Forbes, James. *The Holy Spirit and Preaching*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Gibson, Scott M. *Preaching for Special Services*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. & Pablo A. Jiménez. *Púlpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Graves, Mike, Editor. *What's the Matter with Preaching Today?* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.
- Gross, Nancy Lammers. *If You Cannot Preach Like Paul*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.
- Harris, James Henry. *The Word Made Plain: the power and promise of preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Jeter, Joseph R. and Ronald J. Allen. *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching for Different Listeners in the Congregation*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2002.
- Kay, James F. *Preaching and Theology*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2007.
- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching, Second Edition*. Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.

- McClure, John S. *Preaching Words: 144 Key Terms in Homiletics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- McMickle, Marvin A. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2006.
- Nieman, James R. and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Shepherd, J. Barrie. *Whatever Happened to Delight: Preaching the Gospel in Poetry and Parables*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Webb, Stephen H. *The Divine Voice: Christian proclamation and the Theology of Sound*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2004.
- Wisdom, Andrew Carl. *Preaching to a Multi-generational Assembly*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2004.