

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
31-501A & B – Developing and Preaching the Sermon
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Office: Room 714

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Class Hours: A: Tuesday 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
B: Monday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Course Description:

This course is designed to help students find their individual preaching voice as they develop the abilities and skills necessary for the construction and delivery of effective sermons. The essential nature of the course moves beyond sermon preparation, to preparation of the preacher. Course work will include readings, lectures, video presentations, discussions, and group and class exercises. It will stress the preacher's responsibility of preaching as an imperative ecclesial act and the importance of proclaiming transformative good news as the essence of the preaching task that undergird a message that helps to direct the hearers in their Christian discipleship. It will also explore the essential nature of the Holy Spirit in preaching, the significance of biblical exegesis and theological reflection in proclaiming the Gospel, and the critical need to contextualize sermons in order to appropriately address the listening congregation, especially as it pertains to the advancing justice in the world. Students will be required to reflect critically on the assigned texts, and to participate in the evaluation of their sermons and those of their classmates.

Course Outcomes:

Knowing:

Students will understand the sermon as the proclamation of the Gospel (good news), the Bible as foundational to preaching, the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching, and worship as the context for preaching. Be familiar with different preaching styles, able to select styles that are appropriate to both the text and the context of each preaching event, and know how to include interpretive material in a way that enriches the sermon while honoring the sources of such material and engaging the particularities of the preaching event.

Being:

Students will begin to claim their identity as preachers who have begun the process of finding his/her individual preaching voice; who value the place of preaching as proclamation of the Gospel; who understand the need for continued learning and development of their preaching skills; and are committed to honing their art as preachers in order to embody the good news of the sermon. Students will become preachers that are sensitive and responsive to the diversity of race and culture that represents the worldview that is the church, and help all voices to be heard

in their preaching.

Doing:

Be able to prepare and deliver listenable sermons that offer to the hearers transformative good news and a message that challenges or advances their Christian discipleship; and that are properly exegeted, well structured, and theologically sound. Offer through word and personal witness that includes embodiment, sermons that are relevant and appropriate to the context of the congregation, in that they consider the local and global culture and events in a way that affirms social justice for all people.

Class Expectations:

1. That all students will attend all class sessions on time and be prepared to participate fully in class activities.
2. That all assigned material will be read as scheduled, and all assignments will be completed and turned in on time.
3. That sermons will be prepared and preached as scheduled to the present congregation, except where specifically noted otherwise.
4. That the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used for preaching.
5. That inclusive language will be used for God and human beings in written and oral work.
6. That all students understand and adhere to G-ETS policies on plagiarism (see Student Handbook). This includes a clear understanding of the method of including and recognizing the source of interpretive material in sermons.
7. That all students understand that the content of the course represents a beginning point in the ongoing development and continuous growth of their preaching skills.
8. **That the schedule and syllabus WILL be modified and additional material added as the professor considers necessary to the course and the development of students.**
9. **There will be no extensions allowed past the end of the term.**

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, which requires students to avoid interrupting the presentations of others or claiming an inordinate amount of time in putting forward their point of view such that it prevents the engagement of other students. Groups may be created for some of the class work and students are expected to participate with integrity with the members of their group.
- **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. All students who wish to use their laptops in class, must sign a covenantal agreement regarding its use, prior to using their laptops in a class setting. 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 the professor

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.

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

1. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780829818222 \$20.00
2. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0829819380 \$20.00
3. Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN-13: 9780664228774. \$25.00
4. Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780800637293 \$21.00
5. Kim, Eunjoo *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 \$25.00
6. Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Beat: Why All Sermons are Narrative*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-5143-1 \$16.99
7. Thomas, Frank. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching. Revised and Updated*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 1997. ISBN: 978-0-8298-1978-6 \$16.00
8. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. **Please have your NRSV Bible available in hard copy or ready on your computer for use at each class.**

Secondary Texts

1. Allen, Ronald J. *Thinking Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6232-5 \$12.00
2. Brown, Teresa L. Fry. *Weary Throats and New Songs: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN 0-687-03013-7 \$25.50
3. Campbell, Charles L. *The Word before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 9780664222338 \$30.00
4. Gonzalez, Justo and Catherine. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003. ISBN-13: 9781592441402 \$17.00
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.
6. Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian-American Perspective*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press 1999. ISBN-13: 9780817013035 \$12.00
7. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6353-7 \$12.00
8. Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 \$21.00.
9. Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. *The Whispered Word: A Theology of Preaching*. Saint Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780827242395 \$16.99
10. Wilson, Paul Scott *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780687023950 \$27.00

Grading:

Preparation for each class, including a pre-class assignment, faithful attendance and full participation in class and group activities. Students are expected to be present and on time for all class sessions, including timely return from breaks. Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance. Late arrival at or early departure from classes will also be considered in determining class attendance.

Three to five sermons preached in class. The grading of sermons will include both the content and the delivery. Some sermons will be recorded for later review. The final grading of sermons will reflect demonstrated improvement. There will be different styles of focuses of sermons. Specific sermon requirements will be provided in a detailed syllabus prior to the beginning of class.

Pre-Class Assignment:

- **Read *Graceful Speech*** by Lucy Lind Hogan
- **Prepare a 3-5 page paper** (12pt Times New Roman double spaced with 1 inch margins and numbered pages) that engages the substance of the text to be used for discussion and handed in at the first class session.
- **Contents of the Paper:** A critical reflection that uses theological language that articulates your definition of a preacher; your understanding of what it takes to become an effective preacher; and the essential requirements for proclamation of the gospel. Your paper should engage specific learnings gained from the book, especially any that were new to you or that reinforced your understanding of what is required to be an effective preacher. Please give special attention to the ideas the author recommends for preachers in the preparation of themselves for preaching. In place of footnotes, when referring to this text, include page numbers in parentheses for all quoted material or materials that are paraphrased or extensively referenced. Use footnotes for material taken from other texts or from online resources.

Weekly Schedule: TBD

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.
- Harris, James Henry. *The Word Made Plain: the power and promise of preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- 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.
- Mitchell, Henry H. Mitchell. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.
- Shepherd, J. Barrie. *Whatever Happened to Delight: Preaching the Gospel in Poetry and Parables*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Satterlee, Craig. *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow*. The Alban Institute, 2011.
- _____ . *When God Speaks through You: How Faith Convictions Shape Preaching and Mission*. The Alban Institute, 2007.
- Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.