

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
31-501B – Preaching
Thursdays, 2:30-5:30
(Maundy Thursday Make-up session is last Tuesday of the term)
Room 208, Main Building
Or Howes Chapel & Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful as noted
Dr. Mark A. Fowler
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Spring 2014

Office: Stead Hall #302

Office Hours: By appointment. Please e-mail Dr. Fowler for arrangements.

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. Course work will include readings, lectures, video presentations, discussions. However, the main experience of the class is student's preaching. In this way, it is a workshop class. We will work together as colleagues committed to one another's growth in preaching in the class setting. It will stress the importance of proclaiming good news as the essence of the preaching task and offering a message directed to the discipleship of hearers; and it will 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.

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.

Being:

Preachers that have begun the process of finding his/her individual preaching voice, who value the place of preaching as proclamation of the Gospel and understand the need for continued learning and development of their preaching skills and is committed to honing his/her art. 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, each in a style befitting its context.

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 attending congregation, except where specifically noted otherwise.
 - A. Students are welcome to submit a manuscript for comment to the professor prior to preaching it. These should be submitted at least two days prior to preaching as WORD attachments to mark.fowler@garrett.edu. They will be returned by late afternoon of the day prior to preaching (if not sooner) unless otherwise noted upon receipt by Dr. Fowler.
 - B. Students **must** post a final manuscript to the MOODLE forum for the day in which they preach. These sermons must be posted by noon on the day they are to be preached. Students are encouraged to review each other's sermons. Also, by the same deadline, please e-mail a copy as a WORD attachment to mark.fowler@garrett.edu. Dr. Fowler's grade and comments will be made on these sermon attachments.
4. A student may be asked or elect to revise the sermon after preaching it or receiving a grade. Grades may be raised (but this is not a guarantee) on secondary submissions. This is not a requirement unless prescribed by the professor. They are to be submitted by the end of class one week following the preaching experience as a WORD attachment to mark.fowler@garrett.edu.
5. **That the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used as the foundational translation for preaching. Other translations are permissible if there is a homiletical purpose for the shift.**
6. That inclusive language will be used for God and human beings in written and oral work.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. That students will submit written evaluations to one another on each sermon preached. These are documents submitted for learning. Please reflect on the way in which you construct your critiques as they are intended for the growth and capacity of colleagues in their preaching ministry.
10. **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.**
11. **There will be no extensions allowed past the end of the term.**

Required Texts: (Prices listed reflect the Barnes & Noble pricing on June 3, 2013)

1. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780829818222 \$17.10
2. Campbell, Charles L. *The Word before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 9780664222338 \$20.08
3. Gonzalez, Justo and Catherine. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003. ISBN-13: 9781592441402 \$16.15
4. Kim, Eunjoo *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 \$18.38
5. Thomas, Frank. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 1997. ISBN-13: 9780829811810 \$15.38
6. Wilson, Paul Scott *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780687023950 \$16.07
7. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Secondary Texts

1. Allen, Ronald J. *Thinking Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6232-5 \$9.75
2. Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN-13: 9780664228774 \$19.37
3. Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780800637293 \$4.98
4. Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian-American Perspective*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press 1999. ISBN-13: 9780817013035 \$13.50
5. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6353-7 \$10.35
6. Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. *The Whispered Word: A Theology of Preaching*. Saint Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780827242395 \$16.99

Grading:

1. **Preparation, faithful attendance and full participation in class and group activities.** Students are expected to be present and on time for all class sessions. **Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance and a failing grade can be expected.** Late arrival at or early departure from classes will also be considered in determining class attendance. Please have an NRSV Bible available for use at each class. The student is also responsible for knowing the readings for the week's class session. Scripture readings are for the Sunday after the class session and can be found at http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm 20%
2. **Five sermons preached in class.** All sermons will be recorded for later review. The grading of sermons will reflect demonstrated improvement.

(10 %-10% – 15%- 20% – 35%)

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 one's point of view such that it prevents the engagement of other students. Groups will 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. 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.

Assignments:**1. General Information:**

On the first day of class you will be assigned to either group one or group two. These will be your working groups for class discussion assignments and preaching rotations. Changing groups for a particular sermon may only be done with the professor's prior knowledge and a rationale that is beyond the student's immediate control.

- Type all work for submission **using only Times New Roman 12 pt, double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around and pages numbered at the top right corner.** Check grammar and punctuation before submitting your work.
- Please include the following identifying material on the first page of each sermon:
31-501c – Developing and Preaching the Sermon – Dr. Mark A. Fowler
Student's name
Scripture passage with verse numbers
A citation must be given for all quoted or referenced direct or indirect. In sermons, these citations must be included as part of the manuscript and not as footnotes.

2. Pre-Class Assignment

- **Read *Good News Preaching* by Gennifer Brooks and prepare a 2-3 page summary with reflection on the book to be used for discussion and handed in at the second class session.**

3. Class Discussion and Second Book Paper:

- On the third week of class we will engage in a discussion of thinking theologically. Groups 1 and 2 will be responsible for reading either Suchocki or Allen for the discussion. Please post a 1-2 page of notes on what you believe are the key contributions of the text to your understanding of theological thinking for preaching.

- For week seven the student will develop a two-three page paper that digests the learning from Kim, Gonzalez, Thomas and Campbell as they would apply it specifically to at least one of the last three sermons they will preach and more generally to their preaching agenda.

4. Preached Sermons (the text of the written sermon will follow these guidelines):

For the five sermons preached in class:

- Turn in a full manuscript for your sermon on the day you preach, with the full text of the passage of scripture, with verse numbers identified, on the first page. A good news and a message statement must also be included for each sermon in addition to other material required for the specific sermon. Also a brief statement that indicates how this sermon is transformative good news is important.
- You may preach from the manuscript, the sermon outline, notes, or without reference to written material, however you are expected to know your material well enough to allow yourself freedom in the pulpit.
- The first sermon will be 8 to 10 minutes long; the second (funeral and wedding)will be 5-7 long; the third and fourth sermon will be 8-10 minutes long and the fourth will be 10-15 minutes long.

Schedule of Class Sessions:

(Please refer to MOODLE. It is the primary communication tool for the course)

February 3 Week One:

“*The Lord Gave the Word*”(Ps. 68:11) introduction and authority for preaching
 “*Ain’t that-a Good News!*” good news preaching

***Remember to be familiar with the lectionary texts**
 Exercise: Preaching a good news statement.

Reading: Brooks, all

Week Two:

“*A City Set Upon a Hill*” Puritan Plain Style preaching and its environment
 “*Their Sound Has Gone Out*” Styles and forms for preaching
 “*Come Sunday...*” The process of sermon development

***Remember to be familiar with the lectionary texts**
 Exercise: A Good news statement and message

Reading: Wilson Page (all)

Week Three:

Class Discussion One: Thinking theologically & biblically for preaching

3 groups Group 1) Suchocki Group 2) Allen

Brief for the class discussion posted on MOODLE

“Deep River” Exegesis and context

“Morning Has Broken” Introductions and Conclusions

Time for questions in preparation for preaching next week.

Week Four:

Group One will preach Puritan plain Style using lectionary

Class will meet in Howes Chapel

“...but other lands...” Context determines meaning (CA)

“Marching in the light of love” Beat changes and transitions

“I Love to Tell the Story” Narrative Preaching

“Wonderful Words...” Expository Preaching

Reading: Kim

Week Five:

Group Two will preach Puritan plain Style using lectionary

Class will meet in Howes Chapel

“Walk Him Up...” Preaching Weddings and Funerals

Preparing for a wedding or funeral sermon

Thinking about context and justice

Reading: Thomas and Gonzalez

Week Six:

Group One will preach a wedding sermon in Howes Chapel

Reading: Campbell (all)

Second Paper due and posted to MOODLE

Week Seven:

Group Two will preach a funeral sermon in Howes Chapel

“...craft and power are great...” The power of the pulpit against the powers

Week Eight

**Group One will preach in the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful.
Remember that one of the next three sermons must be a sermon of justice, liberation
or/and a global context**

“Marching to Zion” Journey to Celebration
“Libertad...” A liberating pulpit

Week Nine:

Group Two will preach in the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful.

Review of forms to be used in the fourth sermon. Specific focus will be on the issues surfaced in the opening three sermons.

Week Ten:

Group One will preach a fourth sermon, experimenting with a form other than one used above. Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful.

Week Eleven: Spring Break: April 17-27

April 24 :Spring break

May 1st:

Group Two will preach a fourth sermon, experimenting with a form other than one used above. Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful.

May 8th:

Group One will preach their final sermon. Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful.

Tuesday, May 13 (Make-up class for Maundy Thursday):

Group Two will preach their final sermon. Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful