

CL 338 - ADVANCED PREACHING SEMINAR

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Chris Smith

Spring, 2006

Schedule: 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 noon

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the past three decades the theory and art of preaching have been changing dramatically. Preaching has shifted from an event that says something, conveys something, articulates something to an event that evokes something, does something, and immerses the congregation in an experience. In this seminar each preacher will have the opportunity to experiment with sermonic form and style, preach at least three times in the presence of colleagues, and identify and address critical issues of concern and places of needed growth in her/his own preaching style and ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Required reading for everyone:

1. Burton Z. Cooper & John S. McClure, editors. *Claiming Theology in the Pulpit*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
2. Jana Childers, ed. *Purposes of Preaching*. Chalice Press, 2004.
3. Ronald J. Allen. *Hearing the Sermon: Relationship/Content/Feeling*. Chalice Press, Chalice Press, 2004.
4. Richard A Jensen. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Fortress Press, 2005.

The following books are resources for the class, and are in our library. They represent a number of important dimensions of homiletical thinking and methodology. After identifying learning goals, these books will guide each preacher in her/his work on the three sermons that will be shared in class. It is expected that each class participant will read at least two to three additional books (not only limited to the following list of possibilities) depending on the particular interests each preacher has, and what homiletical issues she/he intends to work on throughout the semester.

Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible

1. Mike Graves. *The Sermon as Symphony: Preaching the Literary Forms of the New Testament*. Judson Press, 1997.
2. Larry Paul Jones, Jerry L. Sumney, *Preaching Apocalyptic Texts*.

Chalice Press, 1999.

3. David Buttrick. *Speaking Parables: A Homiletic Guide*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
4. Alyce McKenzie. *Preaching Proverbs: Wisdom For the Pulpit*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
5. Thomas G. Long. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*.
6. Eugene L. Lowry. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Abingdon Press, 1989.

Women and Preaching

1. Mary Donovan Turner, Mary Lin Hudson. *Saved From Silence: Finding Women's Voice in Preaching*. Chalice Press, 1999.
2. L. Susan Bond. *Trouble With Jesus: Women, Christology, and Preaching*. Chalice Press, 1999.
3. Christine M. Smith. *Weaving the Sermon*.
4. Carol M. Noren. *The Woman in the Pulpit*.

Black Preaching

1. Olin P. Moyd. *The Sacred Art: Preaching and Theology in the African American Tradition*. Judson Press, 1995.
2. Samuel D. Proctor. *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority*. Judson Press, 1994.
3. Henry H. Mitchell & Emil M. Thomas. *Preaching for Black Self-Esteem*. Abingdon Press, 1994.
4. James H. Harris. *Preaching Liberation*.
5. Henry H. Mitchell. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*.
6. Evans E. Crawford. *The Hum: Call and Response in African American Preaching*.

Social Analysis and Preaching

1. J. Philip Wogaman. *Speaking the Truth in Love: Prophetic Preaching to a Broken World*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
2. Stanley P. Saunders and Charles L. Campbell. *The Word on the Street: Performing the Scriptures in the Urban Context*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

3. Joseph R. Jeter, Jr. *Crisis Preaching: Personal and Public*.
4. John S. McClure and Nancy J. Ramsay. *Telling the Truth: Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence*.
3. Kathy Black. *A Healing Homiletic: Preaching and Disability*.

Imagination

1. Thomas H. Troeger. *Preaching While The Church Is Under Reconstruction: The Visionary Role of Preachers in a Fragmented World*. Abingdon Press, 1999.
2. Richard L. Eslinger. *Narrative Imagination: Preaching The Worlds That Shape Us*. Fortress Press, 1995.
3. Eugene L. Lowry. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*.
4. Mary Catherine Hilker. *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*.

The Bible and Preaching

1. Paul Scott Wilson. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Abingdon Press, 1999.
2. Stephen Farris. *Preaching That Matters: The Bible and Our Lives*. Westminster John Knox Press, 19098.
3. Gail R. O'Day and Thomas G. Long, editors. *Listening to the Word: Studies in Honor of Fred B. Craddock*.
4. Lucy Atkinson Rose. *Sharing the Word: Preaching in the Roundtable Church*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Three sermons 12-15 minutes long.
Please turn in a manuscript to Chris each Monday before you preach.
2. Four one-page reflection papers on the four required books, naming three or four key issues the book raises that you would like to talk about in class.
3. Completed reading for class sessions.

4. Two opening worship moments

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Sermon #1 - 25%
2. Sermon #2 - 25%
3. Sermon #3 - 25%
4. Reflection Papers - 20%
5. Worship Moment - 5%

More than three absences will generally result in a failing grade. The work for this course is terminated at the end of the final class session. Your performance in the course is evaluated on the basis of the work submitted by that time, unless an exception is made by the instructor. In this case, a formal petition for extension must be approved by the instructor by the end of the final class session. Extensions for this course will be approved only under extraordinary circumstances, due to some kind of personal emergency or illness.

All work in this class is expected to follow the Inclusive Language Policy in the Student Handbook.

Policy on Extension

The work for a course is terminated at the end of the final class session. Student's performance in the class is evaluated on the basis of work submitted by that time, unless an exception is made by the instructor, in which case a formal petition for extension must be approved by the instructors by the end of the final class session. Extensions of course work beyond the end of the semester will be approved only under extraordinary circumstances. Each instructor will include this policy on each syllabus as well as the criteria by which she or he will grant such extraordinary exception.

In the event such an extension is approved, the instructor or instructors shall file the extension form with the Registrar by the date grades are due. The Student Review Committee shall monitor extensions. If no petition for extension is filed, a final grade will be submitted.

An extension may be granted for a period not to exceed six months from the end of the term. If the work is not completed by the date petitioned, a final grade will be submitted. Any renewal of an extension must be approved by the instructor and filed with the Registrar prior to the due date on the original petition. No extension or its renewal will exceed six months from the end of the term in question.

In this course an extension might be granted due to a death in one's family or close circle of friends, or due to an extended or very critical illness.

Inclusive Language Policy

Students are expected to read and follow the guidelines of the Inclusive Language Policy printed in the Student Handbook.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

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| Thursday, February 9 | Introductions
Walk Through the Syllabus
Decisions about Schedule and Process
Reflections on Our Preaching Ministries and
Setting Goals for One's Own Learning |
| Thursday, February 16 | Discussion of "Claiming Theology in the Pulpit"
Preaching Exercises
*Turn in first reflection paper and come to class prepared to share the results of your own theological Profile. |
| Thursday, February 23 | Collective Sermon Preparation Time |
| Thursday, March 2 | Student Sermons
Class Reflections |
| Thursday, March 9 | Student Sermons
Class Reflections |
| Thursday, March 16 | Collective Sermon Preparation Time
Discussion of "Purposes of Preaching"
*Turn in second reflection paper. |
| Thursday, March 30 | Student Sermons
Class Reflections |

Thursday, April 6 Student Sermons
 Class Reflections
Thursday, April 13 Discussion of "Envisioning The Word"
 Listening to the sermon together

***Turn in third reflection paper.**

Thursday, April 20 Collective Sermon Preparation Time

Thursday, May 4 Student Sermons
 Class Reflections

Thursday, May 11 Student Sermons
 Class Reflections

Thursday, May 18 Discussion of "Hearing the Sermon"
 Reflection on "learnings" from the class
 Evaluation of class
 Final Worship

***Turn in fourth reflection paper.**