

School of Theology and Ministry
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Winter Quarter 2014

COURSE INFORMATION

STMA 593 Prophetic Preaching for Radical Welcome

Jan 11-12; Feb 22-23, 2014

(Saturdays, 8:30am-4:30pm | Sundays, 9am-4pm)

Classroom: HUNT 110

Prerequisites: N/A

INSTRUCTOR

Flora Wilson Bridges Ph.D.

Office:

Office Hours: Appointment

Office Phone: 206/296-5330

SU Email:

Texts and Materials

- Required Texts

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an Emancipating Word*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 2012.

Childs, James M. *Preaching Justice: The Ethical Vocation of Word and Sacrament Ministry*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2000.

LaRue, Cleophus J., Editor. *Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox: 2002.

McMickle, Marvin. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2006.

- Bibliography for Suggested General Reading

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987.

Buttrick, David. *Preaching the New and Now*. Louisville, KY: WJKP, 1998.

Brooks, Phillips. *Lectures on Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1969.

Callahan, Kennon L. *Preaching Grace: Possibilities for Growing Your Preaching and Touching People's Lives*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Childers, Jana. *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers in the Creative Process*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2001.

Collier-Thomas, Betty. *Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons, 1850-1979*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1998.

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Fichtner, Joseph. *To Stand and Speak for Christ*. New York, NY: Alba House, 1981.

Grasso, Domenico. *Proclaiming God's Message*. Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame University, 1985.

McMickle, Marvin A. *Preaching to the Black Middle Class: Words of Challenge, Words of Hope*, King of Prussia, PA: Judson Press, 2000.

Ritschl, Dietrich. *A Theory of Proclamation*. Richmond, VA: John Knox, 1980.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *Bread of Angels*. Cambridge, M: Cowley Publications, 1987.

Required Materials

STMA 593 Coursepak to be purchased at SUpercopy

Course Description

This class is about learning to preach in the prophetic tradition of Scripture with an emphasis on the Black Church tradition. Walter Brueggemann, in his book *The Prophetic Imagination*, emphasized that Jesus, in his solidarity with the marginalized, “is moved to compassion.” Our goal will be to use this organizing principle of the compassion of Jesus to build and deliver compassionate sermons. Sermons in which “the compassion of Jesus is to be understood not simply as a personal emotional reaction but as a public criticism in which he dares to act upon his concern against the entire numbness of his social context.” We will address the immense, urgent, and essential need for preaching to move congregations of every class and complexion to develop a conscience for and action on behalf of radical change in the condition of the poor.

Theme Scripture

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because God has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” *Luke 4: 18, 19 (NRSV)*

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Help you first *listen to find your own voice* and then hear the voice of God who calls one to preach, and finally the voices of God’s people in the world crying out in the struggle for liberation and transformation.
2. Inspire you to use this listening to empower you to:
 - a) prepare and deliver prophetic sermons that are informed biblically
 - b) prepare and deliver sermons steeped in Christian thought and tradition
 - c) increase skill in the practice of preaching for personal, ecclesial, and social transformation
 - d) speak a God word or preach in the light of what you hear through skilled, passionate, and compassionate sermon delivery
3. Help you prepare sermons with a commitment to the call of the Gospel for reconciliation, justice, evangelism, and transformation
5. Equip you for diverse and inclusive partnerships in congregations, community, and the world

6. Equip you to embrace a biblical approach to preaching which is dynamic in its formation and open to God's continuing revelation
7. Enable you to participate in benevolent and critical theological reflection on the sermons of your peers and others in a way that will richly and sensitively help you and them to become better preachers and communicators.
8. Foster within you a basic respect, gratitude, and humility for the complexity of the preaching task in the humble awareness that ultimately it is God who must fashion human words into the Word if preaching is to be effective.

- Learning Outcomes: Give evidence of:

1. Ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian tradition
2. Knowledge of the interaction of religious/spiritual experience and culture in their ecumenical and multicultural dimensions.
3. Ability to read scriptural texts critically.
4. Awareness of your own social location/assumptions/hermeneutics as you engage the text in your own life, your community, and the larger world.
5. Ability to use biblical tools and resources as a way to inform your own exegesis for the purpose of doing your ministry.
6. Ability to draw critically and constructively on Christian moral traditions to lead toward a more just and sustainable world.
7. Ability to discern and nurture spiritual experience in relation to self and others.
8. Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview.

Assessment of Learning Processes

Assessment will take place through the discussion, building, delivery and evaluation of prophetic sermons; both your own and those of your peers to:

- 1) Discern evidence of whether you and others are able to participate in benevolent and critical biblical and theological reflection on sermon delivery and do sermon construction that demonstrates effective communication as a preacher;
- 2) The completion of all assignments in a timely manner;
- 3) Excellent attendance in order to actively contribute to the healthy development of the class.

Grading Criteria

Class Participation/Group Skills: The style of this course is as a seminar and one experience of preaching in a worship context. You are graded on: 1) Use of effective communication skills; 2) Punctual and regular attendance. You must attend all classes and class activities. Absences will result in failure. Lateness beyond fifteen minutes will reduce your grade by one half. For example, if your grade is an A, a lateness of fifteen minutes will reduce the grade to A-, thirty minutes to B, etc.; Active participation in the healthy development of the class that includes talking in class about the class material, critically commenting on sermons, and displaying attitudes of honesty and mutual respect.

Scholastic Performance: You are graded on: 1) Demonstrated ability to think , evaluate, and preach in a rigorously critical biblical and theological manner as a prophetic preacher. 2) Demonstrated ability to prepare and deliver sermons in a way that shows growing homiletical competence and ability. 3) Timely and critical reading of all assigned reading material that reflects in class discussion, analysis, evaluations, and sermon preparation.

Course Requirements: In addition to the above, each student will:

- 1) Write one manuscript sermon fifteen (15) minutes in length and deliver it in class on February 22nd or 23rd.
- 2) Provide written and verbal evaluations of peer's sermons.
- 3) Visit one worship service

Grading Weight and Scale

Class Participation/Group Skills: 50%

Scholastic Performance: 50%

Schedule of Course Activities

Saturday, January 11

Readings for Discussion:

Book: McMickle, La Rue

Articles: Jones, Washington, Neal, Conn

Sunday, January 12

Readings for Discussion:

Book: Bruggemann, La Rue

Articles: Gutierrez, Schut, Bragg

Saturday, February 22

Readings for Discussion:

Books: Childs, La Rue

Articles: Reuther, Grant, Valenti, Comstock, Heilbut

Sermons of students

Sunday, February 23

VISIT TO WORSHIP SITE

Sermons of students