

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

Fall Quarter 2013

COURSE INFORMATION

STMA 550 Preaching the Word: Homiletics

Thursdays, 1:30pm-4:20pm

Classroom: HUNT 100

Prerequisites: STMM 505 or STMM510

INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Kathlyn James DMin

Office: HUNT 219

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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Texts and Materials

- Allen, Ronald. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998) ISBN 082721619X
- Allen, Ronald. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998) ISBN 0827229534
- Childers, Jana. *Birthing the Sermon: Woman Preachers on the Creative Process* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2001) ISBN 082720230X
- Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006) ISBN 0664228771
- McClure, John S. *Best Advice for Preaching* (Minneapolis, MO: Augsburg Fortress, 1998) ISBN 0800629973
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Publishing, 1998) ISBN 156101074X

Course Description

This beginning course introduces the student to the theological context and practical dynamics of preaching. It centers on preparation methods, presentation skills and critical review tested in actual preaching by students in the class sessions. Competencies include public speaking/proclamation, coherent organization and convincing presentation, theological understanding and vocational readiness.

The goals of this class are:

- to assist students in learning how to prepare and deliver inspired, skilled, faithful, and compassionate sermons appropriate to their own contexts and in their own voices
- to enable students to engage in critical and constructive reflection on the sermons of their peers in a way that will help them to become better preachers and communicators
- to foster in students a basic respect, gratitude and humility for the complexity of the preaching task

M.Div. learning outcomes related to this course:

- Ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian tradition.
- Ability to inform ecclesial leadership with theology.
- Ability to articulate one's relationship with God, as it is informed by theological reflection in one's social context.

Course Requirements

Attendance: This is a highly interactive, participatory class, in which attendance is essential.

Presentations: Preaching is like prayer: you don't learn to preach simply by thinking about it, but by actually practicing it! Each student will present two sermons to the class during this course, 12-15 minutes in length. Each sermon will also be accompanied by a sermon outline that will be given to everyone in the class at the time of the sermon delivery.

Participation: Discussion and group interaction are the primary modes for learning in this class. Students should demonstrate effective group skills---and that they have done their course reading!---by actively contributing to large and small-group discussions. When offering feedback on one another's sermons, students will be expected to demonstrate honesty, critical reflection, caring encouragement, and mutual respect.

Written Assignments:

- Each student will turn in a manuscript for each of the two sermons preached in class, due on the day that the sermon is preached. (Methods of preaching without a written manuscript will be explored, but a manuscript is required so that I can see your thought processes, sermon design, and demonstrated learning.) Sermon outlines will be provided to class members, as noted above. Quotations should be footnoted.
- Each student will turn in a 3-page book review/response to either Taylor's *The Preaching Life* or Childers' *Birthing the Sermon*, due on November 21.
- Students will also write a 3-page summary reflection of how they have grown and most significant learnings through the ten weeks of this course, due on the last day of class, December 5.

Grading Criteria, Weight and Scale

- **Preached Sermons:** 40% of grade. Sermons will be evaluated according to their insight, imagination, biblical exegesis, theological soundness, spiritual acumen, relevance, authenticity, delivery, and the demonstrated growth and learning of the preacher between the first and second sermons.
- **Written Sermons:** 20% of grade. Written sermons will be evaluated on the above criteria, with additional assessment of evidence of preparation, creativity, effective use of language, clarity of purpose, intentionality of sermon design, and overall coherence.
- **Class Discussions, Participation, and Peer Feedback:** 20% of grade. Students will be graded on punctual and regular attendance, active participation, effective communication skills, and contribution to a healthy class environment.
- **Book Review:** 10% of grade. These will be evaluated on demonstrated awareness of the book's content, critical reflection on the author's themes, and relevance to the student's own preaching life, habits, and processes. Format for class papers: Chicago Manual.
- **Final Reflection Paper:** 10% of grade. The final reflection paper will be evaluated on critical self-awareness, acquired skills and resources for preaching, thoughtful reflection on course content, and learning and growth by the developing preacher.

Schedule of Course Activities

9/26 "What Makes for Good Preaching?"

Introductions: of students, syllabus, goals & expectations

Readings: "Thoughts and Issues for Beginning Preachers" *Introduction to Preaching*, pp. 1-18

"The Calling of the Preacher" *Best Advice* pp 1-14

“You, the Preacher” *Graceful Speech*, pp; 31-49

10/3 **“Preaching as a Conversational Art”**

Readings: “Three Contexts for Preaching” *Introduction*, pp. 19-61

“Coordinating with the Rest of the Service” *Best Advice*, 117-134

10/10 **“Preaching as Theological Interpretation”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 63-96

4 student sermons preached & class response/review

10/17 **“Establishing and Developing a Direction for the Sermon”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 97-150

Best Advice, pp. 17-49

4 student sermons & class response/review

10/24 **“Putting the Sermon Together”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 151-205

Best Advice, pp. 51-98

4 student sermons & class response/review

10/31 **“Traditional Patterns in Preaching”**

Readings: *Patterns of Preaching*, pp.7-72

4 student sermons & class response/review

11/7 **“Contemporary Patterns in Preaching”**

Readings: *Patterns*, pp. 73-136

4 student sermons & class response/review

11/14 **“Stories, Images, Personal Experience”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 206-219

4 student sermons & class response/review

11/21 **“What to Do When Preaching”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 221-236

Best Advice, pp. 99-115

Graceful Speech, pp. 173-190

4 student sermons & class response/review

Due: 2-page book review on either *The Preaching Life* or *Birthing the Sermon*

11/28 **Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class**

12/5 **“The Preaching Life”**

Readings: *Introduction*, pp. 238-243

4 student sermons & class response

Due: Summary reflection paper on learnings and growth through these ten weeks

Policies

- Attendance and class participation are essential in this course. More than one absence due to illness or emergency will lower your grade. Please do not ask the professor to excuse absences. Late arrivals to class will also affect your grade.
- Missed assignments will affect your grade by the percentages/weighting indicated above. Assignments turned in after deadlines will be lowered by one grade per day overdue.
- Academic Honesty (including plagiarism): The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the academic policy regarding Academic Integrity as indicated on the Seattle University Registrar website, as noted in the box below.
- Disability: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, please see related note in the box below.

University Resources and Policies

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (<http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/>)
 - *(This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)*
- Academic Integrity Tutorial *(found on Angel and SU Online)*

Academic Policies on Registrar website (<https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance/>)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy *(only for those professional programs to which it applies)*

Notice for students concerning Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.