PREACHING PRACTICUM: 1 CORINTHIANS

TUESDAY 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Instructor: Professor J. Dorcas Gordon
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Assistant Instructor: Dr. Joon Ki Kim
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Course Description: This course focuses on a pastoral interpretation of 1 Corinthians and how this letter may be proclaimed in the life of the church today. Through a social cultural reading, congregational studies, and homiletical theory this course will seek to elucidate the possibilities of Paul’s letter for preaching today.

Prerequisites: An introductory course in both preaching and New Testament

Course Outcomes:
- To reflect on the pastoral implications of 1 Corinthians as a congregation in formation;
- To gain insight into the early church and the church today through the use of a variety of scholarly tools;
- To receive this letter as though we were listening to a preached event;
- To reflect on contemporary approaches to New Testament interpretation and homiletical study;
- To consider the impact of preaching this text in a diversity of social locations, e.g. gender, racial, social, global, and within a variety of parish/congregational settings;
- To gain confidence in preaching and to reflect on the effectiveness and faithfulness of doing so as gospel proclamation.
- To develop pedagogical skills by providing leadership in class [AD students]

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Interpretation Paper 1 20%
Using the resources available from the class and the required readings, prepare a careful description of the culture of the congregation at Corinth and of the culture of your TFE congregation (or alternate site).
[6 – 8 pages. Due January 28]
Interpretation Paper 2  20%
Using the resources available from the class and the require readings, prepare a careful description of the ecology within which the church at Corinth exists and of the ecology within which your TFE congregation (or alternate site) exists.
[6 - 8 pages, Due March 4]

Interpretation Paper 3  20%
What is the nature of the authority to preach in a postmodern, secular Canada? Assess Paul’s claims to authority in a first century context (chapters 1 – 4), and through an understanding of the church in a 21st Century context, reflect on the nature of your authority to preach.
[6 – 8 pages. Due March 25]

Sermon and Reflection  30%
Sermons will be preached as scheduled throughout the course. Students will sign up with the Assistant Instructor. A one page self-assessment is due on the Tuesday of Exam Week (April 8). For those preaching on congregational culture, the text is 1 Cor 12: 12-26; for the sermons on the broader ecology the text is 1 Cor 11: 2-16; and for the sermons on leadership/authority the text is 1 Cor 15: 1-8

Short Class Assignments, Reading and Reflection 10%
Weekly readings from the texts are set out as a requirement for all; Students will also give leadership in group presentations.

AD Students will meet with the Instructor to discuss additional requirements.

Texts:


Other readings as assigned in weekly outline.

Course Outline:

January 7:  Review Syllabus
           Introduction to Homiletical Method
For next week read: Horsley, pp. 21-38; Meeks ch. 2: *The Social Level of the Pauline Christians*; ch. 3 “The Formation of the Ecclesia” and ch. 5 “Rituals”.

January 14: Congregational Culture and Preaching: 1 Cor. 11: 17-34

For next week read: Tisdale, Ch. 1-4

January 21: Congregational Culture and Preaching: Today’s Context

Group 1: Discussion leaders on Tisdale and congregational culture

January 28: Preaching as Local Theology: Five Examples

*Five students will each preach for no more than fifteen and no less than ten minutes, demonstrating in their sermons an understanding of the Corinthian culture and the culture of their TFE (or alternate) congregation.*

For next week read: Horsley, pp. 115-151; Meeks ch. 1 “The Urban Environment of Pauline Christianity”

February 4: Ecology and Preaching: Situating the Corinthian Congregation within the Roman Empire with particular reference to Chapter 8-10


February 11: Ecology and Preaching: The 21st century context: i. Copland’s case study; ii. Legge on the Canadian Context

For class on February 25 read: Eunjoo Mary Kim, *Preaching in an Age of Globalization*, (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2010), chapter 2 “Globalization and the Context for Preaching” (pp. 19 – 42) and A Sermon: “Remembering the Gift of God, (pp. 113-120)

February 18: READING WEEK

February 25: Congregational Ecology and Preaching

Group # 2: Discussion Leaders on readings from Eunjoo Mary Kim and ecology

March 4: Preaching from an Ecological Context: Five Examples

*Five students will each preach for no more than fifteen and no less than ten minutes, demonstrating in their sermons an understanding of*
the ecological framework of the Corinthian context and their own 21st Century congregational context.

For next week read, Horsley, pp. 39-76; Meeks, chapter 4

March 11: The Authority of the Preacher: Paul’s Leadership at Corinth as described in chapters 1-4


March 18: Authority of the Preacher and the Modern Context

Group # 3: Discussion Leaders on reading from leadership/authority to preach

March 25: Authority and Preaching: Five Examples

Five students will each preach for no more than fifteen and no less than ten minutes, demonstrating in their sermons an understanding of their authority to preach in light of Paul’s claims in ch. 1-4 and their understanding of the place of preaching in 21st c Canada.

[These sermons may be directed to their fellow students rather than a congregational context]

April 1: Preaching for Today’s Church: Practices and Concerns

COURSE POLICIES

Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree/Advanced Degree Handbooks and the Knox Student Handbook. The Knox Student Handbook policy section may be accessed at the following link: (www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Academic%20Programs/Policies/Academic_policies.htm)

Note the following information and the fact that it might apply differently to BD and AD students; if in doubt please ask:

Late Policy: 4 points deducted per week late.

Completion of Course Work: All course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty.

Style Guidelines for Papers: See Knox “Style Manual” booklet and A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, These and Dissertations, by Kate Turabian.

Email Assignments: Papers and assignments are not accepted by email, except in rare cases by prior permission of the professor.
Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with me about any questions you may have.

Attendance: A minimum attendance of 80% is required for a passing grade. Habitual lateness for class will be counted as absence (cf. Knox College Student Handbook [2008 – 2009], p. 36).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should read carefully the academic discipline policy on, and severe penalties for, plagiarism and cheating. These are set out in the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters available through the Office of the TST Director (cf. TST Basic Degree Handbook, p. 18) and on the web (www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html).

GRADING SCHEME

The grading scheme for this course, as with all TST courses, is as follows:

A+ 90-100 profound and creative
A  85-89 outstanding
A- 80-84 excellent: clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.
B+ 75-79 very good
B  73-76 good: good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues, good familiarity with the literature
B- 70-72 satisfactory: adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues and with the literature
FZ 0-69 failure: failure to meet the above criteria

Working Bibliography:


Preaching the Gospels Without Blaming the Jews (2004)
Preaching the Letters Without Dismissing the Law (2006)
Preaching the Old Testament (2007)


