

KNP 1352 H: FALL 2015
BASICS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING
KNOX COLLEGE

TUESDAY 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Freeman

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I try hard to answer all emails within 24 hours, except on Sundays.

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12pm-1:30pm **Room:** TBD

COURSE OUTCOMES:

The students will:

- Situate preaching within an understanding of ministry,
- Describe various patterns of preaching from the perspective of a reformed emphasis on biblical exegesis,
- Increase their awareness of the contextual nature of preaching,
- Apply exegesis to the preaching task,
- Practice the art of delivering a sermon.

TEXTS: (available at Crux, Wycliffe College Bookstore)

Ronald J. Allen. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

Thomas G. Long. *The Witness of Preaching*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox Press, 2005.

REQUIRED READING: (on reserve in Caven Library)

Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998, Pages 57-98.

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. "The Culture Shock of Preaching," in *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997. Pages 1-30.

MARKING SCHEME:

1. Sermon Review Pass/Fail Assignments	10%
2. Patterns of Preaching Presentation	10%
3. The Funeral Homily	15%
4. Exegetical Exercise	30%
5. Preparation, Delivery & Assessment of Sermon	35%

***** NOTE *****

The final sermon is worth substantially more than your funeral sermon.

I hope that this will encourage you to try new things, take risks and learn from your first sermon in order to improve the quality of your second sermon.

ASSIGNMENTS: DETAILS AND DUE DATES:

NOTE: There are no tutorials for Basics of Biblical Preaching but extra time will be scheduled between December 14 and December 18 for the Sermon assignment. **All students are required to be at every preaching session not just the one at which they are preaching.**

1. **Sermon Review Pass/Fail Assignment:** These assignments are two page assessments of sermons. If the assignment is completed to the appropriate length, submitted on time, and displays Master's level reflection then the assignment will receive 100%. If the assignment is late or too short, the assignment will receive 0%.
 - a. From the sermons watched in class on Tuesday October 6th pick one sermon and prepare a two page assessment of it. Describe in your assessment the way in which the biblical text is used in the sermon and the ways in which the sermon considers the listener. **Due by blackboard October 9th.**
 - b. For the second pass/fail assignment students will prepare a two page assessment of any sermon they recently heard outside of class. The sermon can be from chapel, a church service, McKay Resource Centre, or online. *I encourage you not to write a review of your home pastor's preaching for reasons that will be explained in class.* Please list the preacher, sermon title, and resource information (where it was preached, website address, or library citation information) for your selected sermon. **Due by Blackboard December 1st or before.**
 - c. We will watch the sermons watched on October 6th again at the end of the class. For the final two page pass/fail assignment be prepared to explain how insights gained from the course materials have impacted or changed the manner in which you experienced the sermon the second time around. **Due by Blackboard December 11**

2. **Develop and Preach a Funeral Homily:** Choose one of the following options:

Option A: Imagine that a 50 year old woman has died, and you have been asked to deliver the funeral homily.

Option B: Imagine that a 90 year old man has died, and you have been asked to deliver the funeral.

Choose an appropriate text, and prepare a homily to be preached in class (5 min. max.). Write a one page description detailing the option you chose and a) the circumstances of the death; b) the family context of the deceased; c) the location of the funeral (i.e. Funeral home/ church/ graveside); d) why you chose this particular scripture text.

Due: Homilies preached in class on November 10 and November 17

The one page description is due on the week before your sermon is preached. Please bring enough copies for the class.

3. Exegetical Paper

The New Common Lectionary Texts: First Sunday of Lent, Year C, Gospel text: Luke 4:1-13 on Sunday February 14, 2016. The form of this paper is to follow Long's Exegetical Method for Preachers. **You should cite at least 10 sources, including the following: (if a commentary, read the sections of these resources that pertain to Luke 4:1-13).**

Ronald J. Allen and Clark Williamson. *Preaching the Gospels without Blaming the Jews: 3 Volume Lectionary Commentary*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004.

Fred Craddock. *Luke*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009, pg. 1-10, 37-44.

Jerome H. Neyrey, Editor *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991, Chapter 12 (plus other areas of interest)

Charles B. Cousar, Beverly R. Gaventa, J. Clinton McCann, James D. Newsome, eds. *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary based on the NRSV – Year C*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994.

David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds. *Feasting on the Word, Year C. Vol 1*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008-2011.

Joel B. Green. *The Gospel of Luke*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

Philip F. Esler, *The First Christians in their Social World: Social-scientific approaches to New Testament Interpretation*. London and New York: Routledge, 1994, chapter 2.

Due: October 20: Length – 8 to 10 pages

4. **Group Exercise:** Listen to the sermons provided in class. Your group will focus on one that will be assigned. The pattern will be identified. In your presentation describe the characteristics of that pattern referring directly to the sermon. Comment on its use of the Bible and aspects of its appeal to you as listeners.

Due: Presented in class November 24

5. Sermon Preparation, Delivery and Assessment:

Delivery and Assessment:

- a. The sermon should be approximately 12 minutes – no shorter than 10 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes.
- b. The sermon will follow one of the patterns described by Allen in *Patterns of Preaching*. The pattern chosen should be clearly marked on the sermon manuscript.
- c. The sermon will be on Luke 4:1-13 and based on the work you completed in your exegetical paper.
- d. You are not required to preach from a manuscript, however a manuscript is to be handed in when the sermon is preached.
- e. The sermon will be taped (the cost of the CD is \$3.00). The CD can be used to help write the self-evaluation.
- f. The preacher will hand in (through Blackboard) a one-page self-evaluation according to the hand-out provided.

Due: The day after your sermon is preached. Sermons to be preached December 14-18 (Exam week).

COURSE OUTLINE

- Sept. 15 Introductory matters
A Brief History of Preaching and the Reformed Tradition.
Read: Long, Introduction and chapter 1
- Sept. 22 The Bible in Preaching: Biblical Exegesis and preaching
Discussion of Long's Pattern of Exegesis for Preachers.
Read: Long, chapters 2 and 3
- Oct. 6 Learning from those who preach: Audio-visual sermons and Discussion
Two page Sermon Review due by email by Friday, October 9th
- Sept. 29 The Listener in Preaching: Who are the ones who hear?
Panel of Ministers (Rev. Thomas Kim, Rev. Heather Vais, and another Rev. TBD) will
discuss the importance of context for preaching.
Read: Tisdale, "The Culture Shock of Preaching"
- Oct. 13 Who is the one who preaches?: Voice, Mannerisms and Performance.
Guest: Fred Graham
Read: Jana Childers, *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*, 57-98.
- Oct. 20 The Three F's of Preaching: Focus, Form and Function
Introduction to Funeral Homily
Due: Exegetical Papers
Read: Long, chapters 4, 5, and 6
Sign up for Funeral Homily
- Oct. 27 READING WEEK
- Nov. 3 What's in a Plan?: Introduction to Patterns of Preaching
Read: Allen, Patterns of Preaching (particularly Patterns
1,2,4,11,13,18,23,28,31,34.)
Sign up for dates/groups for presentations on Patterns of Preaching
- Nov. 10 Preaching the Funeral Homily – Student Sermons.
- Nov. 17 Preaching the Funeral Homily – Student Sermons.
Group Evaluation of Homilies (Handout will be provided)
Sign up for preaching dates

Nov. 24 Group Presentations on Patterns of Preaching

Read: an additional article or chapters may be added on the first day of class.

Dec. 1 Moving from Text to Sermon: Style, Presentation, and Delivery
Discussion on Technology in Preaching

Read: Long, chapters, 7, 8, 9, and 10

Dec. 8 Learning from those who preach Part II: “How my mind has changed or stayed the same.”

Two pages Sermon Review due by Friday, December 11th

Dec. 15-18 Sermons, sermons and more sermons (specific times TBD)

COURSE POLICIES:

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox College Student Handbook*. In particular note:

Late Assignments Policy: You must contact the instructor in advance if your assignment will be late. Otherwise, 4 points will automatically be deducted after midnight on Tuesday. If you have informed me in advance that your assignment will be late, you will lose two points if you hand it in by Friday at noon, and 2 more after Friday at noon (to a maximum of 4 points per week.)

Completion of Course work: all course work (including any late work) must be completed by dates as set out by the Instructor. 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 Faculty. An SDF request form must be submitted.

Style Guidelines for Papers: see *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

Attendance: Students are expected to see that in a professional program they must approach study as they would employment. To that end, it is a regulation of the Board of Governors of Knox College that a minimum of 80% attendance at lecture courses is required for credit: 100% attendance is required at seminar courses. Habitual lateness for class will be counted as absence.

Inclusive Language: Inclusive language is to be used in all class presentations and written assignments.

Blackboard Submitted Assignments: Papers and assignments may be accepted through Blackboard, but you must receive permission from the instructor, except where stated in the syllabus. *The exegesis paper may not be submitted electronically.*

Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic Degree Handbook

Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor about any questions you may have. E-mail is normally the most immediate form of contact.

GRADING SCHEME

The grading scheme for this course is outlined in the Basic Degree Handbook.

WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Ronald J., ed., *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

Allen, Ronald J., *Preaching: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

Allen, Ronald J., and Williamson, Clark, 3 Volume Lectionary Commentary. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press:
Preaching the Gospels without Blaming the Jews (2004)
Preaching the Letters Without Dismissing the Law (2006)
Preaching the Old Testament (2007)

Brown, Teresa L. Fry. "Hold on to Your Hope." Sermon Preached at 2011 Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, on February 8th, 2011. Available from <http://vimeo.com/26015097>.

Campbell, Charles L. *The Word before the Powers : An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Childers, Jana. *Purposes of Preaching*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.

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

Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Cooper, Burton Z. and John S. McClure. *Claiming Theology in the Pulpit*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2003.

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

Craddock, Fred. *The Cherry Log Sermons*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Davis, Henry Grady. *Design for Preaching*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1958.

Edwards, O. C. *A History of Preaching*. 2 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.

Farris, Stephen. *Preaching That Matters: The Bible and our Lives*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1998.

- Gordon, Dorcas and MacNaughton, Margaret, Eds. *Counting the Women: Sermons by Women*. Toronto: The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1994.
- Graves, Mike, Ed., *What's the Matter with Preaching Today?* Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2004.
- Jacobsen, David S. and Robert Kelly. *Kairos Preaching: Speaking Gospel to the Situation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2009.
- Lee, Jung Young. *Korean Preaching: An Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- Lischer, Richard. *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005
- Long, Thomas G. Sermon Preached at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN on October 9th, 2013. Available from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oZfu7ECtF8&list=PLUU0xBzg1AjTYaDH-PIC_DiGvAiE94o9U&index=114
- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- . *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
- McClure, John and Nancy Ramsay. *Telling the Truth: Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998.
- McClure, John. *Sermon Sequencing Workbook*. Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1997.
- McKenzie, Vashti Murphy. "Same No More." Printed in *Outstanding Black Sermons, Vol. 4*. Edited by Walter S. Thomas. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001.
- Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: Recovery of an Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Rice, Charles L. *The Embodied Word: Preaching as Art and Liturgy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1993.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 2000.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. "The Parable of the Fearful Investor." Sermon Preached at Duke University Chapel on November 13th, 2011. Available from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEzT7hFdhLU>.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2004.

Van Seters, Art. *Preaching as a Social Act: Theology and Practice*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

Wilson, Paul. *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Audio-Visual Resources: Walter Allum Sermon Collection in the Ewart Centre for Lay Education:
McKay Resource Centre, Knox College.

Useful Websites

www.textweek.com

www.workingpreacher.org

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

<http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/thisWeek/podcasts.php>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/DukeChapel?feature=watch>