

MINISTRY 6302

The Ministry of Preaching

Instructor: Greg Neill

Fall 2018

Tuesday Evenings: 6:30-9:10

The Ministry of Preaching (MIN 6302)

Course Syllabus and Class Schedule

Instructor: Greg Neill
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I. Course Objectives

1. Students will learn to present the Christian message through the event of preaching.
2. Students will reflect upon the challenges and impact of the ministry of preaching in a congregational context.
3. Students will engage the biblical text, current homiletic theory and shared experience and integrate those studies into finished preaching.
4. Students will develop skills that moves one from the biblical text to a sermon that challenges and engages their audience.
5. Students will experience the formative power of giving and receiving feedback on sermons.
6. Students will learn to minister appropriately in weddings and funerals.
7. Students will define the nature and purpose of biblical preaching and describe the key characteristics and components of a sermon.

II. Required Texts

Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*, Chalice Press, 2011.

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching* (Third Edition), Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*, Cowley Publications, 1993.

III. Means of Assessment

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| 1. Reflection papers/exercises from assigned readings. | 125 Points |
| 2. Mid-term: A 6-8 Minute Homily | 150 Points |
| 3. Book Review of <i>The Preaching Life</i> | 125 Points |
| 4. Class Participation | 100 Points |
| 5. Forty-Five Week Preaching Plan | 250 Points |
| 6. Final Exam – Full Sermon (20-25 Minutes) | 250 Points |

IV. Explanation of Assessments

Reflection Papers/Exercises and Class Participation: Students will submit theological reflection papers on selected assigned readings. The papers should seek to determine the author's purpose, the theological significance, and the practical application of the reading. The reflection papers are to be 1-2 pages in length. Class exercises and participation will include oral and written presentations on various components of a sermon (the focus and function, illustrations, titles, etc...). Some of the exercises and reflection papers are noted on the class schedule and others will be assigned as the class progresses.

Book Review (7-10 pages): Students will read and reflect on Barbara Brown Taylor's *The Preaching Life*. The book review should include a brief summary of the book's content and should engage the following questions: How would you articulate Taylor's theology of preaching? What is the most thought provoking sentence, paragraph or chapter in the book? How does the Taylor's presentation of the ministry of preaching cohere with your understanding of preaching? How does Taylor's presentation of the ministry of preaching differ from your understanding? What aspects of preaching in this book resonate with your contexts and experiences? The book reviews will be discussed in class. **Due October 30.**

Mid-term Homily (October 16): Students will orally present a six (6) to eight (8) minute homily from a **miracle narrative** in one of the gospels. Other students will offer a critique of the homily using a rubric that will be provided. Each student will also critique themselves. The grade for the homily will be calculated using the following weighted formula: Instructor's Critique (60%), Average of the Student Critiques (30%), and Self-Critique (10%).

Forty-Five Week Preaching Plan: Students will prepare a forty-five-week preaching plan. The plan will include a selected text for each week, a title for each sermon, and a description of each sermon that includes the selected text's claim, the sermon's focus and the sermon's function (no more than 100 words). **Due November 27.**

Final Exam Sermon: Students will orally present a twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) minute sermon from a text of their selection. In addition to the oral presentation, students will submit a written outline or manuscript of the sermon and submit any exegetical notes that were used in preparing the sermon. Other students will offer a critique of the sermon using a rubric that will be provided. Each student will also critique themselves. The grade for the final will be calculated using the following weighted formula: Instructor's Critique (60%), Average of the Student Critiques (30%), and Self-Critique (10%).

Note: All written papers are to be in Times New Roman, 12 point, and double spaced.

Class Schedule

August 28	Course Introduction The Theology of Preaching
September 4	The Image of the Preacher Readings: Long - Chapter 1 and Craddock - Chapters 1-2 Reflection Papers Due: The Image of the Preacher
September 11	A Word from the Lord Preaching From the Pentateuch (Exodus 18-19) Readings: Long – Chapters 2-3 Reflection Paper Due: What We Bring to the Text
September 18	Focus and Function of the Sermon Preaching Old Testament Narratives (2 Samuel 11-12) Readings: Long – Chapter 4 and Craddock - Chapters 3-4 Exercise Due: Focus and Function Statements
September 25	The Form of the Sermon Preaching Old Testament Prophetic Texts (Hosea 1-2) Readings: Long – Chapters 5-6 and Craddock – Chapters 5-6 Exercise Due: Experimenting with Forms
October 2	Evaluating Sermons Preaching the Psalms (Psalm 120-134) In Class Exercises (Viewing On-Line Sermons)
October 9	Beginnings and Endings Preaching the Gospels (Matthew 5-7, Mark 1-2, John 8-9, Luke 22-24) Readings: Long – Chapter 7 and Craddock – Chapter 16 Exercise Due: Introductions and Conclusions
October 16	Mid-Term Homilies
October 23	Illustrations, Analogies, and Personal Experiences Preaching From Acts (Acts 15-17) Readings: Long – Chapter 8 and Craddock – Chapters 7-10 Exercise Due: Finding the Right Illustration
October 30	Book Reviews Due – Discussion of <i>The Preaching Life</i> Plagiarism and Other Pitfalls of Preaching Readings: Long – Chapter 9

November 6	Sermon Planning Preaching From Paul (Philippians, Galatians) Readings: Long – Chapters 10-11 and Craddock – Chapters 14, 17
November 13	Evaluating Sermons Preaching From the General Epistles (1 John, Jude, 2 Peter) In Class Exercise (Viewing On-Line Sermons)
November 20	Thanksgiving Week – No Class
November 27	Weddings and Funerals Preaching From Revelation (Revelation 2-3, 7) Technology and Multimedia Resources Preaching Plan Due
December 4	Final - Sermon Presentations
December 11	Final - Sermon Presentations

***** Please note that the schedule is tentative and is subject to change.**

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Bibliography

- Craddock, Fred B. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2011.
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- Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson. *The Unnecessary Pastor*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000.
- Eslinger, Richard L. *Pitfalls in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1996.
- Fabarez, Michael. *Preaching That Changes Lives*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002.
- Friedman, Edwin H. *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*. New York: The Guilford Press, 2011.
- Gorman, Michael J. *Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation and Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015.
_____. *Inhabiting the Cruciform God: Kenosis, Justification and Theosis in Paul's Narrative Soteriology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
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- Peterson, Eugene H. *The Pastor*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.
_____. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Resner, Andre. *Preacher and Cross: Person and Message in Theology and Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.
_____. *The Preaching Life*. Cambridge, Mass: Cowley Publications, 1993.
- Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson. *The Big Idea of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.