

Austin Graduate School of Theology
MIN 4306: Preaching and Teaching

Spring 2018

Monday 7:00 – 9:40 PM

Instructor:

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Office Hours by appointment

Catalog course description:

Preaching and Teaching introduces the student to the particulars of developing and delivering theologically grounded sermons and Bible classes. In the course the student will explore the exegetical process, the development of a theme statement, the planning of a series, and use of images in the preaching and teaching ministry. The course will also supply the student with a theological framework for preaching as well as exposure to literature on the subject of preaching and teaching. Students will engage in the process of sermon building through critical reading, responding, analyzing, interpreting, and writing in the course. There is no course prerequisite, although an introductory course in Biblical exegesis is recommended.

Course objectives:

- The student will be able to articulate a clear theology of the ministry of preaching and teaching as well as accurately summarize the gospel
- The student will be able to adequately describe the process of building a unified and balanced sermon
- Using sound exegetical technique, the student will be able to interpret biblical passages in order to develop a unifying theme statement
- The student will be equipped with the listening skills to analyze sermons and Bible classes that they will encounter on a weekly basis
- The student will be able to discriminate between grace oriented and moralistic preaching
- The student will create a theologically grounded sermons that maintains unity, balance, and movement as well as develop an 8 – 15 week sermon series
- The student will be introduced to different forms, styles, and techniques of preaching and teaching
- The student will be better prepared to engage in the life of ministry
- The student will be equipped with the resources and skills to deliver theologically sound and appropriate images in sermons and Bible Classes

Means of assessment:

- Attendance in class sessions is required. The instructor must be notified and convinced of the worthiness of any absence.
- Students are expected to be prepared for each class having read the assigned material and participate in class discussions.
- There will be two sermon labs in this course where each student will deliver a sermon and receive feedback. These sermons will take place on **3/26** and **4/23**
- An 8 – 15 week sermon series paper will be due with short summaries of each passage in the series along with a focus/function statement attached to each summary due **2/26**
- The student will outline their sermon passage using three different forms and turn this in on **3/19**. One of the forms must be the four page sermon form from Paul Scott Wilson. With each form the student will write an introductory paragraph where the student explains why this particular form was chosen. The student will then in paragraph or outline give a brief description of the movements of the sermon within that particular form.
- A sermon evaluation paper (8 – 10 pages) is due on **4/9** where the student will choose to three sermons to listen to (live or online). The paper will include an introduction that describes the setting of the sermon (preacher will remain anonymous) and the listeners of this church community. The student will evaluate each sermon for its theology, proclamation of the gospel (in contrast to moralistic preaching, and use of ethos, logos, and pathos of the preacher and delivery.
- There will be a midterm (**3/5**) and a final (**5/7**)

Grading:

- 5% - Class Participation
- 15% - Planning Series Paper
- 10% - Sermon Lab 1
- 20% - Sermon Lab 2
- 10% - Sermon Form Paper
- 10% - Evaluating Sermons Paper
- 15% - Midterm
- 15% - Final

Grading scale:

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 0 – 59 = F

Resources for Learning:

Textbooks:

Craddock, Fred. *Preaching* (25th Anniversary Edition). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010.

Gordon, David T. *Why Johnny Can't Preach*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2009

Articles: Distributed as needed

Schedule of Classes

1/22 – Introduction to the Course

- Syllabus
 - Resources/books
 - Expectations
 - Outline of the Course
- Discussion: What is the aim of preaching?
 - Telos of preaching
 - Who is Fred Craddock?

1/29 – Theology of Preaching

- Lecture: What is Preaching?
- Images of the preacher – Thomas Long: Witness of Preaching
- Craddock – pp. 13 – 30, 51 – 65, Gordon – 79 - 81
- The Story of Scripture: *The Drama of Scripture*
- Proclamation of the Gospel (N.T. Wright – What is the Gospel?)
- Moralistic Preaching
- Scott McKnight – introduction to Embracing the Gospel
- “Be My God” – Michael Showalter
- Scheduling a sermon time

2/5 – Having something to say part 1

- Continue discussion of the Gospel
- Choosing a text
- One Text (Lectionary, Long term/short term planning - Crockpot vs. Microwave)
- 4 year plan
- Developing a Sermon Schedule (sharing with worship planners)
- Craddock – pp. 84 - 98

2/12 – Having something to say part 2

- Interpretation
- Exegesis vs Eisegesis
- Guidelines for Exegesis
 - Define the boundaries (finding the pericope)
 - Choose translation
 - Establish a context
- Long's Exegetical Method
- Commentaries
- Craddock – pp. 99 - 124
- Telos of exegesis – stating the claim

2/19 – The Case for Unity

- Qualities of a good sermon (Craddock)
- Dabney's seven cardinal rules of preaching (Gordon)
- What is Unity in a Sermon?
- Tools for fostering unity in a sermon
 - Craddock's method
 - Tom Long's Focus and Function
 - Paul Scott Wilson's homiletical highway
- Read Craddock – 153 – 169, Gordon – 11 - 41

2/26 – Forms and Balance

- **Planning Series paper due**
- Forms
 - Genres in scripture
 - Craddock's List of Forms
 - Long's list of Forms
- Finding Balance
- The Four Page Sermon – Paul Scott Wilson
- Craddock – 170 – 193

3/5 – Enriching the Form part 1 – Images

- **Mid-term**
- A case for Images in scripture
- Resources for Images
 - Stories, Movies, Children's Literature, Hymns, etc...
- Tools for Collecting Images – Write it Down!
- Cautions for Using Images
- Story Telling – The do's and Don'ts
- The power of the Refrain

3/12 Spring Break -

3/19 – Enriching the Form

- **Sermon Forms Paper Due**
- Sermon Length
- Delivery/Mechanics of Preaching
- Voice Training
- The Perils of Powerpoint
- Ethos, Logos, Pathos

3/26 - Sermon Lab #1

4/2 – The Life of the Preacher

- Prayer and Devotion
- Weekly Rhythms
- Interruptions
- Being Present with the people
- Hospital, Visitation, Weddings, Funerals
- Family life of the Preacher
- Craddock 69 - 83

4/9 – Listening to the Masters

- **Evaluating Three Sermons Due**
- Master Sermon #1 Discussion
- Master Sermon #2 Discussion
- Topical Sermons
- Discussion of Gordon 43 - 68

4/16 – Teaching

- Discussion of Gordon 69 - 108
- What is the difference between teaching and preaching
- Importance of establishing the context
- Forming good questions
- Education Planning

4/23 – Sermon Lab 2

4/30 – Guest Speakers

5/7 - Final