

**Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
31-607 – Advanced Preaching**

Fall 2017

Dr. Gennifer Brooks
E-mail – gennifer.brooks@garrett.edu
Room: 714 - 847-866-3888

Class Hours: Monday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Description:

This course is designed to respond to the needs of those persons who take seriously the divine call to preach. It is especially geared to local church pastors, who must prepare and deliver a sermon each week and is intended to help students to increase and improve the skills needed to preach effective sermons. The course takes seriously the issue of contextualization of the Biblical text to the particular community in light of the culture of society and the situations that define the particular preaching moment. It gives serious attention to performance elements in preaching. It is also aimed at creating awareness and encouraging the use of online resources and will teach strategies for collaboration, critical review, peer support and resourcing of one's preaching ministry.

Course Objectives:

- **Knowing:** By using different structures in sermon creation and in the method of delivery such as rhetoric and other performance models, student will gain homiletical knowledge and preaching skills that will enable them to meet the varying needs of diverse congregational settings and preaching contexts. Students will also gain deeper knowledge of the use of online resources and social media to support the development and delivery of their sermons on an ongoing basis.
- **Being:** Become preachers that are adequately equipped for the task of proclamation in the twenty-first century. This includes being more proficient interpreters and proclaimers of the entire canon of scripture so that it is representative of and consistent with the good news of Jesus Christ. It also requires embodying the good news in a way that is visible in the performance of the sermon to the listening congregation.
- **Doing:** Use current and contextual methods of biblical interpretation, including communications media, to create sermons for preaching weekly in a local church setting. Deliver sermons in a way that engages both the ecclesial and pastoral responsibility imbedded in the Great Commission, for the formation of Christian disciples for the twenty-first century.

Class Assumptions and Expectations:

1. That each member of the class understands and values the place of preaching as intrinsic

- to the proclamation of the Gospel.
2. That each student has a sound theology and sufficient knowledge and understanding of the biblical text, as foundational to preaching.
 3. That each student will approach the task of preaching and the work of this course seriously and conscientiously.
 4. That each student will willingly participate in and contribute fully to the development of all their classmates in a spirit of collegiality and support, and not one of competition, both in person and online.
 5. That each student understands and will adhere to the spirit and the substance of inclusiveness for both God and humanity in both sermons and other written work.
 6. **That each student commits to continuing participation for two years in an online peer support group for young preachers who have passed the Advanced Preaching course.**
 7. That all students understand and adhere to G-ETS policies on plagiarism (see G-ETS student handbook). This includes understanding of the method of citation that is required in sermons and in homiletical exegesis.
 8. **That the schedule and syllabus WILL be modified and additional material added as the professor considers necessary to the course for the benefit of students.**

Class Requirements:

1. Be present and on time for all class sessions. Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance. Late arrival at classes will also be considered in determining class attendance.
2. Using Moodle, check the syllabus weekly and be prepared for class as specified in the posted syllabus for the class session.
3. Read all textbooks and class material and be prepared to participate actively in class sessions and be a contributor to all class discussions.
4. Become aware of and use online resources in the development of sermons and participate fully in an online peer support group developed as part of the class.
5. Develop and present or preach sermons as assigned. The schedule is designed to allow students the opportunity to practice different styles of sermons. Students will develop sermons weekly that will be reviewed and/or preached in class.
6. Collaborate with fellow students in the process of research and interpretation of biblical texts and preaching contexts in the development of sermons, and offer feedback to fellow classmates as appropriate on sermon contents and delivery.
7. Preach a sermon outside of the class environment that is video recorded and discussed in peer review sessions.

Classroom and Online Culture:

- **A Culture of Respect:** In order to maintain a culture of respect for human diversity and collegiality within the classroom, students are expected to engage the professor and their fellow students as colleagues and to receive all material with respect for the author. Participation in in-class and online activities must take into account the right of every student to be heard and avoid interrupting the presentations of others or claiming an

inordinate amount of time in putting forward their own point of view such that it prevents the engagement of other students.

- **Preparation for Class Participation:** The textbooks assigned for this class have been chosen to offer a balanced presentation of the material. Students are asked to read the material assigned in order to participate fully in class discussions. You are not required to submit a formal paper for each of the textbooks, but having an outline or notes will help to facilitate your knowledge of the information contained in each.
- **Laptop Usage in Class:** Since all coursework will be delivered electronically, students will be required to use laptops in class. However, such usage is allowed on the basis of a covenantal agreement that students will use their laptops in class for the work of this class only.
- **Telephone Calls:** Please turn off your telephone when you come to class. If there is an ongoing emergency situation that may require you to receive a call, please let the professors know before class begins. When that is the case, please put your phone on vibrate and leave the classroom before answering any call that you receive.

Class Work and Grading

Students will be instructed in the requirements of developing different styles of sermons and the performance characteristics required to preach them effectively, and will be expected to participate in class discussions on homiletical challenges. Students are expected to prepare a sermon each week beginning with the first week – no exceptions. A manuscript with the following identifying material is required for each sermon preached:

31-501 – Developing and Preaching the Sermon – Dr. Gennifer Brooks
Student's name
Description of preaching context or situation
Scripture passage with verse numbers
Sermon Purpose Statement
Good news statement
Message statement

Most sermons will be preached or presented in class. All sermons will receive feedback from instructors and classmates in both verbal and written form. Each sermon will be between 10-15 minutes in length.

Students come into the class assigned with a grade of A and will keep that grade by doing all the assigned work and showing progress in their development as a preacher. The grade will be reduced in accordance with:

- (1) the amount of work that is not completed or not submitted on schedule,
- (2) as a result of insufficient participation in social media and online work, and
- (3) on evidence of lack of progress.

The final assignment is a personal reflection that summarizes the student's understanding of the preaching task and offers a description of the student's plan for ongoing development including the continued connection with classmates through social media. This is not a written work, but students are required to give serious attention to the ramifications of their preaching ministry in

the church. **Please bring all textbooks to each class.**

Required Texts: (Prices listed reflect the original publisher's price)

1. Allen, O. Wesley. *The Homiletic of ALL Believers: A Conversational Approach*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780664228606 \$25.00
2. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0829819380 \$20.00
3. Brown, Teresa L. Fry. *Delivering the Sermon*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN – 978-0-8006-0447-9 \$15.00
4. Gilbert, Kenyatta. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8006-9627-6 \$20.00
5. Holbert, John C. and Alyce M. McKenzie. *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes That Can Sink Your Sermon*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23510-9 \$20.00
6. Lose, David. *Preaching at the Crossroads: How the World – and Our Preaching – Is Changing*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8006-9973-4 \$19.00
7. Thomas, Frank. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching. Revised and Updated*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 1997. ISBN: 978-0-8298-1978-6 \$16.00
8. Wilson, Paul Scott *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780687023950 \$27.00
9. **The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (Please have your Bible available at each class.)**

Secondary Texts: (Prices listed reflect the original publisher's price)

1. Allen, Ronald. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998. ISBN-10: 0827229534, \$19.00
2. Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Preaching as Theatre. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-687-07423-1 \$19.99
3. Childers, Jana and Clayton J. Schmit, editors. *Performance in Preaching: Bringing the Sermon to Life*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 2006 ISBN-13: 9780664227814 ISBN: 0664227813 \$21.59
4. Cosgrove, Charles H. and W. Dow Edgerton. *In Other Words: Incarnational Translation for Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007 ISBN-10: 080284037X ISBN-13: 978-0802840370 \$18.00
5. Kim, Eunjoo *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 \$25.00
6. Lischer, Richard. *The End of Words: the Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*. ISBN 9 780802 829320 \$18.00
7. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780800663537 \$12.00
8. Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 \$21.00.

9. Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Beat: Why All Sermons are Narrative*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-5143-1 \$16.99
10. Plantinga, Cornelius Jr. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2013 ISBN 978-0-8028-7077-3 \$14.00
11. Satterlee, Craig. *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow*. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute. ISBN: 978-1-56699-417-0 \$17.00
12. Satterlee, Craig A. *When God Speaks Through You: How Faith Convictions Shape Preaching and Mission*. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute. ISBN: 978-1-56699-353-1 \$17.00
13. Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23510-9 \$20.00
14. Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23332-7 \$16.00
15. Wilson, Paul Scott: *Preaching as Poetry: Beauty, Goodness, and Truth in Every Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014. ISBN 13: 978-1-4267-6404-2 \$18.99

Pre-Class Assignment:

Students are required to: **1)** Read the text *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes That Can Sink Your Sermon* as preparatory material for understanding the importance of developing the contents of the sermon. Identify key learning from the book. **2)** Write a 2-3 page paper that reflects critically on your understanding of the requirements and potential pitfalls of sermon development. **3)** Prepare a full manuscript of a sermon that you have delivered in a recent worship setting and bring it to the first class (include the biblical text in its entirety on the manuscript).

Schedule of Class Sessions:

Week 1: 9/11 Introduction to Advanced Preaching

Review of in-class and online requirements
 Discussion of *What Not to Say* ... and what is appropriate for preaching
 Review sermon manuscript for preaching and develop a sermon purpose statement
 Engaging the voice and body in preaching
 Developing SMA preaching goals (Specific, Measurable, and Achievable)

Textbook: *What Not to Say...*

Sermon: Preach your sermon based on the original setting.

Week 2: 9/18 Preaching as storytelling

Understanding the entire Bible as narrative
 Reframing the Narrative Sermon
 Claiming the biblical story for the congregational context
 Engaging the conversation in context
 Embodiment techniques for imaginative storytelling

Textbooks: *The Homiletic of All Believers – Part 1; Preaching at the Crossroads*

Sermon: Update and preach the sermon from week 1, with specific attention to the

content requirements and the performance techniques of embodiment taught in class and individual SMA goals

Week 3: 9/25 The Preacher as Public Theologian

The preacher as theologian in residence
The theology of good news and social justice
The preacher as prophet and purveyor of social justice
Understanding the preacher as and in community
Claiming the good news of the biblical text
Proclaiming the good news for developing Christian discipleship

Textbooks: *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching; Preaching at the Crossroads*

Sermon: Preach a Narrative sermon (sermons will be videotaped to be used in week 5)

Week 4: 10/2 Preaching as Interpretation

David Stark

Research tools for interpreting the text then and now
Applying techniques of Biblical Interpretation to contextualize the sermon
Connecting text and context in a global world
Preaching in response to community and world events
Biblical interpretation for social justice

Textbook: *Preaching at the Crossroads*

Sermon: Preach an expository biblical sermon that focuses on social justice

Week 5: 10/9 (Asynchronous) Evaluating Your Sermon

David Stark

(There will be no class meeting – but students will meet by video chat at a scheduled determined with the Teaching Fellow)

A community of preachers
Elements of critical assessment of a sermon
Rubrics for assessing sermon content
Rubrics for assessing sermon performance
Developing the sermon for online viewing – video protocols
Assessing performance goals - Specific, Measurable, Achievable

Textbook: *Delivering the Sermon; Handout - Rubric for Sermon Feedback*

Textbook: *Unexpected Grace, Rubric for Sermon Feedback*

Sermon: Upload the video of the narrative sermons, and be prepared to critically engage your own preaching performance style as well as those of your peers. Each student will provide substantive critical assessment of all four sermons based on the guidelines provided in class. Specifically, for your own sermon, compare your assessment with your SMA performance goals and determine the adjustments that are necessary to meet your identified goals.

Week 6: 10/16 Preaching Trouble and Grace

Connecting text and context for good news
Juxtaposing human sin vs divine grace

Interpreting the text and applying the context

Textbook: *The Four Pages of the Sermon*

Sermon: Working with another colleague, and using the sermon from week 4 modify it to represent an entirely different context, specifically one where the issue would not be readily received. Be sure that the issue is realistic for the community. Preach the revised sermon.

Week 7: 10/23 Prophetic Preaching

Understanding prophetic preaching and its challenge for preachers

Interpreting and preaching difficult Bible texts

Preaching Good News in difficult situations

Using the Biblical Prophets and the Parables of Jesus to preach justice

Preaching in hard times

Preaching the Psalms and biblical poetry verse by verse

Textbook: *Unexpected Grace*

Sermon: Preach a Four Pages sermon on a text that you perceive to be *difficult*.

Week 8: 10/30 Preaching for Celebration

Understanding the narrative of celebration

Discerning the celebrative aspects of the text – more than good news

Preaching cognitively and emotively

Moving the sermon as narrative to celebration

Textbook: *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God*

Sermon: Present a sermon on a Psalm using a verse by verse style

Week 9: 11/6 The Pastoral Nature of Preaching

The pastor/preaching role and its impact on sermon development

Preaching for special events in individual lives and the congregation

Connecting the good news and discipleship

The preacher as congregational theologian

Developing the pastoral sermon

Textbook: *Preaching at the Crossroads; The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*

Sermon: Preach a parable of Jesus. Style of sermon is preacher's choice

Week 10: 11/13 Imagination and Preaching

Jaewoong Jung

Using the imagination in developing the sermon

Painting pictures through sermonic words

Embodying the sermon to make the message visible

Textbook: *Delivering the Sermon*

Sermon: Preach a Pastoral sermon for a specific event in the congregation. Use video or other techniques where possible.

11/20 No Class: Thanksgiving Recess

Week 11: 11/27 Preaching as the Proclamation of Good News

Review of key preaching principles

Discussion of preaching challenges

Textbooks: All

No Sermon

Week 12: 12/4 The Preacher as Purveyor of Good News

Making the good news clear and convincing

Connecting the good news and the discipleship needs of the congregation

Proclaiming a definitive discipleship message

Biblical Interpretation and contextual analysis

Developing and embodying sermon contents

Textbooks: All

Sermon: Preacher's Choice

Week 13: 12/11 The Preacher and Preaching

The ongoing homiletical conversation

Planning for the Future

Continuing to learn and develop as preacher

Selected Bibliography:

- Aden, LeRoy H. and Robert G. Hughes. *Preaching God's Compassion*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Allen, Ronald J. *Hearing the Sermon: Relationship/Content/Feeling*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2004.
- _____. *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Buttrick, David. *Speaking Conflict: Stories of a Controversial Jesus*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.
- _____. *Speaking Jesus: Homiletic Theology and the Sermon on the Mount*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.
- Campbell, Charles. *The Word before the Powers*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.
- Clader, Linda L. *Voicing the Vision: Imagination and Prophetic Preaching*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2003.
- Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority: Revised and with New Sermons*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2001.
- _____. *Overhearing the Gospel Revised and Expanded*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2002.
- Dally, John Addison. *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*. The Alban Institute, 2008.
- Davis, Ellen F. *Wondrous Depth: Preaching the Old Testament*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.

- Edwards Jr., O.C. *A History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- Florence, Anna Carter. *Preaching as Testimony*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.
- Forbes, James. *The Holy Spirit and Preaching*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Gibson, Scott M. *Preaching for Special Services*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. & Pablo A. Jiménez. *Púlpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Graves, Mike, Editor. *What's the Matter with Preaching Today?* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.
- Gross, Nancy Lammers. *If You Cannot Preach Like Paul*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.
- Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Kay, James F. *Preaching and Theology*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2007.
- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching, Second Edition*. Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.
- McClure, John S. *Preaching Words: 144 Key Terms in Homiletics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- McMickle, Marvin A. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2006.
- Nieman, James R. and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Shepherd, J. Barrie. *Whatever Happened to Delight: Preaching the Gospel in Poetry and Parables*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Webb, Stephen H. *The Divine Voice: Christian proclamation and the Theology of Sound*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2004.
- Wisdom, Andrew Carl. *Preaching to a Multi-generational Assembly*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2004.