

**Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary**  
**31-501 A & B – Developing and Preaching the Sermon**  
Fall 2017

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**Office Hours:** Office hours by appointment.

**Class Hours:** A: Tuesday 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
B: Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to help students find their individual preaching voice as they develop the abilities and skills necessary for the construction and delivery of effective sermons. The substance of the course includes topics and materials related to preparation of the preacher, development and creation of the sermon manuscript, and effective delivery of the sermon. The content of class sessions may include readings, lectures, video presentations, discussions, individual, group and class exercises, as well as performance training and preaching practice.

Classwork will make clear the importance of biblical interpretation that incorporates literary and homiletic exegesis, theological reflection, analysis and incorporation of the preaching context, identification, definition and embodiment of good news that encourages personal discipleship and corporate holiness to make effective the proclamation of the Gospel for the advancement of the reign of God in the world. Students will be required to reflect critically on the assigned texts, and to participate in the evaluation of their sermons and those of their classmates.

**Course Outcomes:**

**Knowing:**

Understand the sermon as the proclamation of the Gospel (good news), the Bible as foundational to preaching, and the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching; and know how to include interpretive material that honors the sources of such material and engages the particularities of both the congregational context and the preaching event.

**Being:**

Become preachers who are practical and public theologians that claim their identity and are committed to honing their art as effective proclaimers of the gospel message. Embody the good news of the sermon in a way that is sensitive and responsive to the diversity of race, culture and other social definers of their particular culture and community as well as the global church and the world.

**Doing:**

Prepare and deliver listenable sermons that offer transformative good news and a message that challenges or advances Christian discipleship in the hearers; and that are properly

exegeted, well structured, and theologically sound. Through embodiment of the preached word, develop and deliver sermons that are relevant and appropriate to the context of the congregation and its existence within the global context, and that affirm social justice for all people.

### **Class Assumptions and Expectations:**

1. That all students have read and are familiar with the class syllabus and therefore responsible for meeting all class requirements.
2. That all students will attend all class sessions on time and will be prepared to participate fully in class activities.
3. That all students will both consult Moodle for class assignments and be attentive to in-class updates of course information so that assigned material will be read, and all assignments will be completed and sermons preached as scheduled.
4. That all students understand that the content of the course represents a beginning point in the ongoing development and growth of their preaching skills and are committed to their continued growth and development as preachers.
5. That the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used for preaching.
6. That inclusive language will be used for God and human beings in written and oral work.
7. That all students understand and adhere to G-ETS policies on plagiarism (see Student Handbook).
8. **That the schedule and syllabus WILL be modified and additional material added as the professor considers necessary to the course and the development of students.**
9. **That there will be no extensions allowed past the end of the term.**

### **Classroom Culture:**

- **A Culture of Respect:** Students are expected to participate with integrity in order to maintain a culture of respect for diversity in all aspects of human identity; to engage the professor, other instructors, teaching assistants and fellow classmates as colleagues; to develop and maintain a spirit of collaboration within the classroom; and to receive all material with respect for the author. Participation in group and class 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 a particular point of view thereby preventing or unnecessarily curtailing the participation of other students.
- **Moodle:** Students are expected to be familiar with the expanded class schedule, weekly readings and class assignments that have been provided on Moodle. Students will be notified in class of additional class readings and assignments as they are posted. **Where the two sources of information differ, in-class direction overrides the instructions posted on Moodle.**
- **Laptop Usage in Class:** Since most coursework will be delivered electronically, students are permitted 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. All students are required to submit a signed covenant to the professor on the first day of class.
- **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

professor 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 Sessions:**

Each class session except those devoted to preaching the required practice sermons will generally consist of three segments as follows:

1. **Mini reports on Reading Assignments** will be done in class based on a major question related to the theme or focus of the class session. These mini reports are designed to verify that students are completing the reading assignments for the week.
2. **Group or class discussion** on the reading assignments or in-class presentation that engages the selected topic for the week. Based on the assigned material, the group is required to be asked to engage the assigned materials. Together they should be able to identify at least two or three significant points from the readings that relate to the theme or focus of the week.
3. **Sermon development** involves teaching and praxis related to the development of the sermon manuscript. Students will be exposed to at least three different styles of sermons, which will be designated for use in developing the sermons that are preached in class.
4. **Performance practice** in preparation for the effective delivery of the sermon is a critical element in preaching. This segment of the class will provide students with as many opportunities as possible to practice and thus develop their preaching performance skills. On selected weeks, all students will practice their preaching performance by delivering actual sermons.

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

1. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780829818222 - \$20.00
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 R. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011 ISBN-13: 978-0800696276 - \$20.00
5. Gonzalez, Catherine and Justo. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-1592441402 - \$19.00
6. Hogan, Lucy Lind. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN-13: 9780664228774 - \$25.00
7. Kim, Eunjoo *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 - \$25.00
8. Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 - \$21.00.
9. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. **Please have your NRSV Bible available in hard copy or ready on your computer for use at each class.**

### **Secondary Texts**

1. Allen, Ronald J. *Thinking Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6232-5 - \$12.00

2. Campbell, Charles L. *The Word before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 9780664222338 - \$30.00
3. 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. 978-0664235109 - \$20.00
4. Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780800637293 - \$21.00
5. Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian-American Perspective*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press 1999. ISBN-13: 9780817013035 - \$12.00
6. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6353-7 - \$12.00
7. Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Beat: Why All Sermons are Narrative*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-5143-1 - \$16.99
8. 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
9. Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1976. ISBN 978-0-8070-1029-7 - \$16.00
10. Wilson, Paul Scott *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780687023950 - \$27.00

### **Class Assignments and Grading:**

1. **Preparation, attendance and participation:** Students are expected to be present and on time for all class sessions, including timely return from breaks. Late arrival at or early departure from classes will also be considered in evaluating class attendance. **Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance and students will be required to repeat the class.** Participation in class sessions includes individual and group activities. **10%**
2. **Pre-Class Assignment:** Read *Graceful Speech* by Lucy Lind Hogan. Prepare a critical reflection (4-6 pages – using 12 pt. Times New Roman, double spaced) that uses theological language and identifies specific learning gained from. Based on the contents of the text, articulate clearly your understanding of the requirements of becoming an effective preacher and delivering effective sermons as described by Hogan. As you reflect on this material, look specifically at the "Homiletical Habits" named by Hogan. Reflect on how important you think they are and what other habits you would add (if any). In your writing, please identify clearly the material that comes from the text as opposed to your response to the contents. Please use footnotes for material taken from Hogan's or any other texts or from online resources, whether quoted, paraphrased, or extensively referenced. Do not simply insert page numbers. No bibliography is required. **PLEASE NOTE: This is not a personal reflection of either your experience or your personal thoughts on preaching and should NOT be written as such in first person language. This paper will be used during the group and class discussion of the text and handed in at the break.** **10%**
3. **Mini Reports on Assigned Readings:** The mini reports demonstrate your preparation for class to engage the topic. **5%**

4. **Preached Sermons:** In order to provide as many opportunities as possible for sermons delivery, there will be 3 sermons preached in class using different scripture texts and sermon styles, and one written sermon, for a funeral. Students will be allowed to choose from multiple biblical texts provided for each sermon. Sample sermons for each genre will be provided in the class files on Moodle. For the preached sermons, three different congregational contexts will be provided and each sermon must be preached to a different context. Students will select a wedding and funeral situation from the lists provided and incorporate additional information to enable the sermon to be appropriately contextual. Sermons will be graded as follows:
- Sermon 1 (6 - 8 minutes) – 10%
  - Sermon 2 (8 -10 minutes) – 20%
  - Sermon 3 (10 -12 minutes) – 35%
  - Funeral (5 - 7 pages) – 10%
- Total for preached sermons **75%**

### **Manuscript Requirements:**

- A written manuscript must be developed and submitted for each sermon preached along with a homiletical exegesis paper unless otherwise directed. You may preach from the manuscript, the sermon outline, notes, or without any written material, but in all cases, you must know your material sufficiently in order to allow yourself freedom in the pulpit. All materials must be submitted electronically to the professor and the TA by 12:00 p.m. for Section A or 4:00 p.m. for Section B, on the day you preach. In addition to receiving feedback in class, students will have the opportunity to review preached sermons with the professor, make corrections and re-submit a sermon manuscript once for a new grade.
- Include the following identifying material on the first page of each sermon and exegesis manuscripts:
  - 31-501 – Developing and Preaching the Sermon – Dr. Gennifer Brooks
  - Student's name
  - Sermon Identifier including Style of Sermon
  - Description of preaching context or situation
  - Complete scripture passage with verse numbers
  - Sermon Purpose Statement
  - Good News statement
  - Message statement
- Prepare all sermon manuscripts **using only Times New Roman 14 pt., double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around and pages numbered at the bottom right corner.** Be aware that each page prepared as outlines represents 2 minutes of preaching time. In the interest of ecology, please do not leave large spaces on pages. Check grammar and punctuation before submitting your work.
- A citation must be given for all quoted or referenced direct or indirect. In sermons, these citations are included within the sermon manuscript, e.g. *As the homiletician John Smith says in his book Praxis of Preaching "the every-Sunday preacher is constrained with respect to preparation time because of essential pastoral duties."* There are no footnotes in sermons, but footnotes must be used for exegetical material as appropriate.

- For homiletical exegesis papers use any 12 pt. type double spaced, with at least 1 inch margins all around. Please check grammar and punctuation and number all pages before submitting your work.
- Respond fully to **ALL** questions provided on the homiletical exegesis form for both biblical and topical exegesis and include the original questions, as provided on the original, on the exegesis paper. All responses must be in sentence form. One-word answers are not acceptable. Use footnotes for all quoted or referenced material.

### Schedule of Class Sessions

#### **Week 1: 9/5 – Introduction to Preaching, the Sermon, and the Preacher**

Class Introductions – name, denomination, one belief/understanding about preaching

Review of class syllabus – key items including laptop covenant

Preaching – definition, characteristics, expectations and responsibilities

The sermon as *Kerygma* (proclamation), *Didache* (teaching), Pastoral

The preacher – anointed by the Holy Spirit; embodiment of the Good News

Review and presentation of Pre-class assignment on ***Graceful Speech***

**Reading Assignment:** Read and review file on Moodle - ***Experimenting with***

***Articulation*** - pages 68-70 of *Performance Training (taken from Performing the Word* by Jana Childers)

**In Class Performance:** Reading Scripture for Preaching: Select a short pericope (2- 4 minutes) from any biblical text, for reading in class.

#### **Week 2: 9/12 – Preaching the Sermon as Good News**

Listening to the text in light of the preaching context

Claiming the good news of scripture for preaching

Preaching in a global economy

The Sermon Purpose Statement

Developing the Good News and Message statements

**Reading Assignment:** *Good News Preaching – pgs. 1-48; Preaching in An Age of Globalization – 3-17, 19-27, 38-42; The Liberating Pulpit – 13-29; Unexpected Grace – pgs. 1-16 & 124-132; Delivering the Sermon – pgs. 75-86*

**In Class Performance:** Review one of the mini sermons provided on Moodle for presentation in class. You are **not** required to memorize the sermon, but be prepared to deliver it without having to read it verbatim or refer to the manuscript continuously. This first presentation will help to identify performance areas that require specific attention, and your **Specific, Measurable and Achievable (SMA)** preaching goals.

#### **Week 3: 9/19 – Structuring the Sermon**

The basic elements of the sermon

Movement, transitions, and balance

The Sermon Purpose Statement

Expository preaching: text and topic

Developing the sermon outline for Expository preaching

Puritan Plain Style Biblical Expository Preaching (*Kerygma*)

**Reading Assignment:** *Good News preaching – pgs. 49-78; The Liberating Pulpit – 30-46; Biblical Expository Sermons (file); Delivering the Sermon – pgs. 5-14, 29-45*

**In Class Performance:** Pulpit protocols - handling the manuscript; hand movement; body movement; use of voice, etc.

**Week 4: 9/26 – Biblical Interpretation for Preaching**

**David Stark**

Homiletical Exegesis – interpreting the biblical narrative for preaching

Reading and locating the text in its biblical context

Connecting the divine presence and human engagement

Using the tools of biblical interpretation

Selecting and engaging the Bible commentary and other interpretative tools

**Reading Assignment:** *Good News Preaching* – pgs. 25-58; *Unexpected Grace* – pgs. 17-42; *The Liberating Pulpit* – 66-95; *Delivering the Sermon* – pgs. 15-27, 47-57

**In Class Performance:** Present your outline for Sermon 1 - identify your SMA's (Specific, Measurable and Achievable preaching goals)

**Week 5: 10/3 – Preaching Assignment – Sermon 1 – Old Testament – Puritan Plain Style – with Exegesis Paper**

**Old Testament Texts:** Exodus 12:1-14; Exodus 16: 2-15; Exodus 17:1-7

**Week 6: 10/10 – Topical Preaching**

Topical Preaching as *Didache* (Teaching)

Selecting the topic in connection with the ecclesial context

Connecting the topic with scripture

Exegeting the Topic

Deconstructing the topic to construct the sermon

**Reading Assignment:** *Good News Preaching* – pgs. 34-41, 45-48; *Handout on Topical Preaching*; *Unexpected Grace* – pgs. 95-123; *Preaching in An Age of Globalization* – 43-64; *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching* – pgs. 77-93

**Week 7: 10/17 – Pastoral Preaching**

**David Stark**

The ecclesial context of preacher and sermon

Connecting congregation and scripture

Responding to congregational needs through scripture

Preaching for congregational development and special occasions

**Reading Assignment:** *Good News Preaching* – pgs. 78-112; *Unexpected Grace* – pgs. 43-69; *Preaching for Special Occasions (File)*; *Delivering the Sermon* – pgs. 59-74, 85-86

**In Class Performance:** Student Presentation

**Week 8: 10/24 – Prophetic Preaching**

Prophetic preaching as public theology

Incorporating social justice in the sermon

Connecting Human Trouble and Divine Grace

Using imagery and imagination with and without images

**Reading Assignment:** *Unexpected Grace* – pgs. 70-94; *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching* – pgs. 1-75; *Delivering the Sermon* – pgs. 47-57

**In Class Performance:** Present your proposed topic and texts for preaching and breakdown of the topic

## Turn in your funeral sermon

### Week 9: 10/31 – Preaching Assignment – Sermon 2 – Topical Sermon with Exegesis Paper Select from the following topics and foundational Biblical Text

- **Spiritual Gifts: Romans 12:1-8 or 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11**
- **Unity in the Body of Christ: Ephesians 4:1-16 or 1 Corinthians 12:12-30**
- **Christian Fellowship: Colossians 3:12-17**
- **Perseverance in Faith: Philippians 3:1-16 or Hebrews 10:19-25**
- **The Christian Life: Philippians 1:20-26 or Romans 12:9-21**

### Week 10: 11/7 – Preaching as Storytelling

The Biblical Text as Story

Claiming the biblical story for preaching

The biblical story as the people's story

Connecting the Bible's story and the people's story in the sermon

Preaching and Imagination

**Reading Assignment: *How to Preach a Parable* – pgs.19-114; *Preaching in An Age of Globalization* – 65-85**

**In Class Performance:** Present your biblical text for Sermon 3 as a story (as opposed to simply reading the text from the bible)

### Week 11: 11/14 – Narrative Preaching

**Jaewoong Jung**

Structuring the Narrative Sermon – Situation, Complication, Reversal, Resolution

Narrative Sermon styles – Running, Suspending, Delaying, Alternating the story

**Reading Assignment: *How to Preach a Parable* – pgs.115-170**

**In Class Performance:** Student Presentation

(11/21: No class, Thanksgiving Recess)

### Week 12: 11/28 – Telling the Story as a Sermon

Connecting the biblical story and the people's story

Bringing the story alive through proclamation of good news

Claiming the biblical narrative as the divine story

Inductive and Deductive Narrative Preaching

Incorporating media in preaching

**Reading Assignment: *Preaching in An Age of Globalization* – 87-109**

**In Class Performance:** Present your narrative sermon text and selected style

### Week 13: 12/5 – Preaching Assignment – Sermon 3 – Gospel – Narrative Sermon

**Gospel Texts: Mark 1:1-8; Luke 17:11-19; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

### Selected Bibliography:

- Aden, LeRoy H. and Robert G. Hughes. *Preaching God's Compassion*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

- Allen, O. Wesley Jr. *Preaching in the Era of Trump*. Saint Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2017.
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- \_\_\_\_\_ . *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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
- Harris, James Henry. *The Word Made Plain: the power and promise of preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
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- Kay, James F. *Preaching and Theology*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2007.
- LaRue, Cleophus J. *Rethinking Celebration*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.
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- Moss, Otis III. *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.
- Powery, Luke A. *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012
- Shepherd, J. Barrie. *Whatever Happened to Delight: Preaching the Gospel in Poetry and Parables*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
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- Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.
- Wiseman, Karyn L. *I Refuse to Preach a Boring Sermon: Engaging the 21st Century Listener*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2013.