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Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
DM-756 – Narrative Preaching for Social Transformation
J-Term 2020

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Office Hours: Office hours by appointment.

Class Dates and Times:

January 13-17 8:30am to 4:30pm

Course Description:

This course will address the way preaching can relate to the social realities in which it is embedded, by paying attention to the intersection of the biblical narrative and the various cultural and political that shape societal discourse. In a culture marked by a multiplicity of competing narratives, the Gospel narrative offers medicine for the of oppression and injustice that ail the Latinx communities in the USA and Puerto Rico. This class focuses on the necessity of the proclamation of the Gospel to address the call to justice and the task of preaching as a means of social transformation.

Course Outcomes:

Knowing:

Understand the narrative sermon as an integrated theological reflection at the intersection of the narratives of the Gospel, the congregation, and the individual living in a particular social context. Such understanding will rise from the conviction of the Bible as foundational to this form of preaching. In addition the students will know how to creatively integrate interpretive material as part of the narrative so that it engages the particularities of both the congregational context and the preaching event in the service of the prophetic witness of the pastor and the congregation.

Being:

Become preachers whose ministry is firmly rooted in the Christian prophetic tradition while they embody the needs, socio-cultural, and political realities of their local communities; and embody the good news of the Gospel through sermons that address the socio-political realities of the community in which they live.

Doing:

Prepare and deliver narrative sermons that creatively manifest a prophetic witness in the service of Christian formation of the individual and the community of faith.

Class Assumptions and Expectations:

1. All students will be familiar with the class syllabus and are responsible for meeting all class requirements.
2. All students are responsible for completing all reading assignment before the residential session and will be prepared to participate fully in class discussion and activities.

3. All students will be responsible for completing all writing assignments by the due date as listed in the syllabus.
4. All students understand that the content of the course represents a continuation in their development and growth as preachers and are committed to the continued development of their preaching skills.
5. That all students understand and adhere to all G-ETS policies including the policy on plagiarism (see Student Handbook).

Reasonable Accommodations:

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Required Reading: All students are expected to complete all the assigned reading before the first day of class. Students should come prepared to discuss the content of the reading and engage the theory found in the reading with practice of preaching. (*Please note that the first three days of class are heavily weighted toward theory; philosophy of narrative; and exercises. The last two days are heavily weighted toward the practice of narrative sermons.*)

- André Resner, Jr. "Preaching's Purpose: Thoughts on Message and Method" in *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*, ed. André Resner, Jr. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003. (*Provided by the Professor*)
- Brueggeman, Walter. *The Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an Emancipating Word*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012. **ISBN-13:** 978-0800698973 (150 pages) – (www.amazon.com \$20.07)
- Lowry, Eugene. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form (Expanded Edition)*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000. **ISBN-13:** 978-0664222642 (132 Pages) – (www.amazon.com \$13.89)
- Thomas, Frank A., *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2018. **ISBN-13:** 978-1501856839 (130 Pages) – (www.amazon.com \$12.98)
- Tubbs Tisdale, Leonora. *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach*, Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2010. **ISBN-13:** 978-0664233327 (106 Pages) – (www.amazon.com \$15.54)
- Wright, John W. *Telling God's Story: Narrative Preaching for Christian Formation* Wheaton, IL: IVP Academic, 2007. **ISBN-13:** 978-0830827404 (165 pages) – (www.amazon.com \$17.16)

Class Assignments

Writing Assignments: Students will complete these written assignments prior to their arrival to the residency portion of the class.

- ***First Writing Assignment – Annotated Bibliography:*** After completing all the required reading, prepare an annotated bibliography of all items included in the required reading list. Make sure to include the areas of agreement and disagreement that you may have with each author. Please follow the rules for annotated bibliographies for the Chicago/Turabian style. **This assignment is due the first day of class.** This is a link to a sample and instructions page: https://libguides.enc.edu/writing_basics/annotatedbib/chicago
- ***Second Writing Assignment – Reflection Paper*** – To preach for social transformation is to enter into a dynamic engagement between the gospel and our own culture(s). This demands a growing capacity to be attentive to one's context, and how the gospel is enculturated in that unique context. The student will identify two or three narratives that reflect the context of our LatinX Community in the USA, and then consider how the gospel interacts with these narratives (e.g, what does the gospel affirm, confront, subvert, etc.?). Similarly, the student will identify two or three narratives that reflect his/her unique congregational context and consider how the gospel engages this unique context. What questions or convictions get stirred up for you as it relates to preaching within these unique contexts? How does understanding your context influence what you preach and how you preach it? Please prepare a document of 5 pages doubled-spaced, 12 pt, New Times Roman in Chicago/Turabian). **This assignment is due on the last day of class.**

Class Preaching Assignments: Each student will prepare and present two sermons. The first will be presented in-class and the second one will be submitted through video post-residency. The two assignments are different and will follow these guidelines:

- ***First Sermon:*** Choose a narrative text from one of the Gospels and prepare the following:
 - **Lowry Loop Sermon:** Using the Lowry Loop model you will prepare and preach a sermon that intersects a narrative text from the Gospels and a pastoral issue (such as sexual ethics, domestic violence, racism, gender-related issues, etc. *These are provided as examples and is not meant as an exhaustive list.*) that is affecting or impacting your local congregation. The text and the intersecting topic is your choice; however, make sure that you follow the Lowry Loop model and the that issue addressed is relevant to life of your congregation. The sermon is to be 13-15 minutes in length and will preached in class. The order for preaching will be determine by last name using a Z to A order.
- ***Second Sermon:*** Choose a narrative text from one of the Books of the Pentateuch and prepare the following:
 - **Four Pages Sermon:** Using the Four Pages model you will prepare and preach a sermon that intersect a narrative text from the Pentateuch and a public policy issue (such as immigration, war, abortion, church/state relationship, etc. *These are provided as examples and is not meant as an exhaustive list.*) that is affecting or impacting your local congregation. The text and the intersecting topic is your choice. However, make sure that you follow the Four Pages model and the that issue addressed is relevant to the socio-cultural reality of your congregation. The

sermon's length must be appropriate for your congregation, but it must not exceed 30 minutes long (Even if your congregation is used to sermons longer than 30 minutes, please limit yourself to 30 minutes). ***This sermon will be preached after the residential portion of the class in the ministry site of each student. The student will submit this sermon and all the related documents for this assignment electronically. Instructions on how to submit will be provided through the virtual classroom: Moodle.***

Materials for Preaching Assignment:

Prior to the preaching event, each student will submit an Exegetical Journal (see below) and a full manuscript of the sermon.

Manuscript:

- Manuscripts are required for sermons 1 and 2.
- While the manuscript need not be used in the sermon (it may but is not required) it must be a complete manuscript of a sermon. This will insure that each student has thought their way through the flow of the sermonic idea(s) in the text and that they have determined the transitional statements needed to keep the sermon on track.
- The manuscript must be handed in at the time of preaching the sermon to the professor or submitted electronically in the case of Sermon #2.
- In addition to the manuscript, the following materials will also be needed:

Exegetical Journals

- Exegetical journals are required for **sermons #2 and #3 only**. They should be comprised of **not more than 4-6 pages**. Exegetical journals are due immediately prior to your preaching of the sermon. A copy of your journal and a full manuscript should be handed to the professor prior to preaching.
- The Exegetical Journal is an academic document. Failure to cite sources within your paper using footnotes will not be acceptable. While you need not cite sources in your manuscript, you must cite sources in your Journal. Your exegetical journals must include the following material. This is an adaptation of Long's 11 step process. (If you prefer, you may still use Long's full 11 step process):
- **Step 1 - Translation:** At the top of the first page of your journal provide an English translation of your text. Identify whether this is your translation or which published translation you are using (e.g., NRSV, NIV, etc.). If you are using a published translation, it may be cut and pasted to your document. (Please identify the version).
- **Step 2 – Rationale for Textual Choice:** Since you are choosing your own texts for these two sermons, give a rationale for why you decided on the text. If you are choosing the Lectionary text, give a rationale for why you chose this particular text rather than one of the other Lectionary options. If you are not using the Lectionary, give a rationale for why this particular passage engaged you as one that would be eminently preachable.
- **Step 3 - First Questions:** After your initial reading of the text and before you begin your exegetical discovery, what are your first impressions of the text? These are insights and issues that you may choose to pursue in your technical work or simply questions you keep in mind as you proceed.
- **Step 4 - Technical:** Follow your initial questions with your exegetical material. This may include but not be limited to: word studies, relevant textual and translation problems,

relation to other texts, redaction issues, form and source criticism, information relating to the text's original setting and meaning, historical, literary, and theological issues, etc. This section begins your own work in the original languages, lexicons, dictionaries, Gospel parallels, Bible encyclopedias, Introductory texts, etc.

- **Step 5 - Commentaries:** The final stage of your technical work—and not before then—is to consult a few well-chosen commentaries. This portion of your notes is not simply a culling of interesting material from the exegetical work of commentary authors but your reaction to their work having already developed your own exegesis of the text. In this way the student will learn to use commentaries as affirmation of their own work in addition to source material.
- **Step 6 - Concluding Understandings:** Please indicate how the discovery work moves from mere questions toward a sermon idea. Here, you draw conclusions; answer lingering questions; and show how the text points you toward a useful message for your context. Your theological judgment is highly valued in this section, since you as the preacher are the one entrusted with bringing forth and sharing the meaning of a text with your listeners.
- **Step 7 - Focus and Function Statements:** Your Journal should conclude with these two statements:
 - **Focus statement:** “a concise description of the central, controlling, and unifying theme of the sermon. In short, this is what the sermon will be about.”
 - **Function statement:** “a description of what the preacher hopes the sermon will create or cause to happen for the hearers.”
- **Step 8 - Bibliography:** Sources for all your studies are expected at the end of your Journal in typical bibliographical form. However, it is expected that the common standards of attribution of other people's work be followed in both sermons (verbal notations of quotes, etc.) and throughout the Exegetical Journal (proper citation).
- **Special Note:** In your Journal, I want to see what you've been reading. Commentaries should be chosen based on scholarly work not Internet accessibility. While it's acceptable for preachers to frequently borrow titles, illustrations, concepts, plots, and themes from others, these should be appropriately attributed in your exegetical journal. In delivered sermons, if you cite something, do it with verbal subtlety.

Sermon Self-Evaluation:

- Each student will have the opportunity to do a self-evaluation of their sermon based upon three pieces of information:
 - Verbal feedback sessions with professor and students (or Online comments)
 - Written feedback provided to the preacher by each of their student/peer groups.
 - A review of the video of each sermon. (for those videos preached in class a link to a video will be provided to each student within 5 days of their preaching. Please review the video as part of the evaluation process).
- **Self-evaluations are due on the day listed in the virtual classroom (Moodle).**
- They are to be 1-2 pages, double spaced with half the material a reaction to what you did well in the sermon and the other half a reaction to what areas you need to improve.

Evaluation/Grading Weights

- 30% Lowry Loop Sermon; grade includes sermon and exegetical journal
- 30% Four Pages Sermon; grade includes sermon and exegetical journal

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- 10% Sermon Self Evaluations (5% for each one in Sermons 2 and 3)
- 15% Annotated Bibliography
- 15% Reflection Paper

TOTAL POSSIBLE = 100%

Graded Percentages for the course are as follows:

- A = 95-100%
- A- = 92-94%
- B+ = 88-91%
- B = 84-87%
- B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 78-79%
- C = 74-77%
- C- = 70-73%
- D = 65-69%
- F = 64% and Below

Day & Time	Subject/Activity
Monday 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Lunch 12:00-1:00PM)	Aristotle and Storytelling Fisher’s Narrative Paradigm & Preaching
Tuesday 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Lunch 12:00-1:00PM)	Models of Narrative Preaching Prophetic Preaching (Yesterday and Today)
Wednesday 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Chapel 11:30AM – 12:00PM & Lunch 12:00-1:00PM)	The Prophetic Meet Narrative Preaching
Thursday 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Lunch 12:00-1:00PM)	Preaching Sermon #1
Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Lunch 12:00-1:00PM)	Preaching Sermon #1 Preaching in a Media Saturated World
*This schedule is subject to the intervention of the Holy Spirit and may be modified as needed.	

Residency Class Schedule

Limited Bibliography for Narrative Preaching for Social Transformation

Achtemeier, Elizabeth, Creative Preaching: Finding the Words, Abingdon Press, 1980.
Brueggemann, Walter. Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
Burghardt, Walter J. Preaching the Just Word. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.
Carlson, Robert A. Preaching Like the Prophets: The Hebrew Prophets as Examples for the Practice of Pastoral Preaching. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2017
Chalmers, Aaron. Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the Worlds of the Prophets. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015

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- Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Florence, Anna Carter. *Preaching as Testimony*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. and Gonzalez, Catherine G. *Liberation Preaching: The Pulpit and the Oppressed*. Abingdon Preacher's Library. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.
- _____. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Green, Joel B., and Michael Pasquarello. *Narrative Reading, Narrative Preaching: Reuniting New Testament Interpretation and Proclamation*. Ada: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Women Preaching: Theology and Practice through the Ages*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2004.
- Lessing, R. Reed. "Preaching Like the Prophets: Using Rhetorical Criticism in the Appropriation of Old Testament Prophetic Literature." *Concordia Journal* 28 (2002): 391-408.
- Lischer, Richard. *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005.
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching from Memory to Hope*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
- Massey, James Earl. *Stewards of the Story: The Task of Preaching*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- McMickle, Marvin A. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2006.
- Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*. London; New York: Routledge, 2002.
- _____. *The Presence of the Word: Some Prolegomena for Cultural and Religious History*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1981.
- Powell, Mark Allan. *What Do They Hear? Bridging the Gap between Pulpit & Pew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Resner, Andre, Ed. *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003.
- Sangyil Park "Speaking of Hope: Prophetic Preaching." *Review and Expositor* 109 (2012): 413-27.
- Walsh, John. *The Art of Storytelling: Easy Steps to Presenting an Unforgettable Story*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2003.
- Webb, Stephen H. *The Divine Voice: Christian Proclamation and the Theology of Sound*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos Press, 2004.
- Wogaman, J. Philip. *Speaking the Truth in Love: Prophetic Preaching to a Broken World*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.