

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
LTRGY 500 A & B – Preaching and Proclamation
Spring 2021

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Office Hours: By appointment. Students may schedule times to meet with instructors.

Class Hours: A: Tuesday 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

B: Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

These are the scheduled class times. The actual synchronous times will be added to the final syllabus before the term begins.

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 course is aimed at addressing three important elements of effective preaching and includes topics and materials related to (1) preparation of the preacher, (2) development and creation of the sermon manuscript, with particular attention given to the identification of the good news of the text and a discipleship message that is a call to action for the hearers, and (3) 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. Students will be required to participate in the evaluation of their sermons and those of their classmates.

Course Outcomes:

As the student fulfills the requirements of this course, the student will learn to...

1. Understand good news as central to the task of preaching.
2. Formulate and communicate good news in varied sermon styles, in varied contexts, and at varied liturgical events.
3. Acquire a working knowledge of varied sermon styles and the unique homiletical characteristics of each.
4. Integrate and hone skills in: critical interpretation of scripture, theological analysis, and pastoral/socio-cultural/congregational interpretation.
5. Embody the sermon in a way that is sensitive and responsive to diversity both locally and globally.
6. Develop an authentic preaching “voice” reflecting a unique combination of particular personality, physical ability, and life experience.
7. Critically engage the preaching of others as well as your own.

Corresponding assessment instruments:

1. Pre-Class Assignment
2. In-Class Participation, Preached Sermons
3. Preached Sermons
4. In-Class Participation, Preached Sermons (and Exegesis Projects)
5. Preached Sermons
6. Preached Sermons, In-Class Participation
7. In-Class Participation, Preached Sermons

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 synchronous 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 all assigned material will be read, 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 in class and 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 sign-in to the Zoom session on time and to participate with integrity in all class activities, in order to maintain a culture of respect for all participants in the class. **In virtual mode, this means that students will remain muted until called on to speak and allow those speaking to complete their statement without interruption. Likewise, students will monitor the length of their statements so that as many persons as possible may have the opportunity to speak and be heard.**
- **Acceptance of Diversity:** In recognition of diversity in all aspects of human identity all participants in the classroom, both students and instructors are to engage each other – the professors, 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 equally.
- **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.**

- **Computer Access:** Students are expected to ensure that they have the appropriate hardware and software as well as the internet connectivity to facilitate fully in synchronous class sessions with both audio and video presence. Only in emergency situations will students be allowed to participate in Zoom sessions by phone. In such cases, both video and audio facilities should be available and utilized.
- **Interruptions:** During synchronous class sessions, students are required to locate themselves in areas that facilitate participation without interruption due to outside noise, telephones or other issues.

Synchronous Class Sessions:

The content and shape of class sessions will be provided to students prior to the actual class. Sessions will be designed to include one or more of these elements:

1. **Reading assignment quizzes** will be provided on Moodle for each week's assigned readings. Students will respond to these quizzes prior to class each week.
2. **Group or class discussion** on the reading assignments that engages the selected topic for the week. Each group is required to engage the assigned materials.
3. **Sermon development** involves teaching and praxis related to the development of the sermon manuscript. Students will be exposed to several different styles of sermons, three of which will be designated for use in developing the sermons that are preached in class based on specific congregational contexts.
4. **Performance praxis** is a critical element in learning how to embody the sermon. This class will provide students with multiple opportunities to develop their performance skills by delivering actual sermons.
5. **Sermon feedback** will include instructor and peer feedback to assignments in a workshop environment during class sessions.

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

1. Gennifer Benjamin Brooks. *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780829818222 - \$20.00
2. Sally Brown and Luke Powery. *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-80006-9922-2 - \$34.00
3. Teresa L. Fry Brown. *Delivering the Sermon*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN – 978-0-8006-0447-9 - \$15.00
4. Lucy Lind Hogan. *Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006. ISBN-13:978-0-664-22877-4 - \$24.95
5. 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. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0829819380 - \$20.00
2. Gilbert, Kenyatta. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011. ISBN - 978-0-80069627 - \$20.00
3. Holbert, John and McKenzie, Alyce. *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes That Can Sink Your Sermon*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox Press, 2011. 978-0664235109 - \$14.96

4. Kim, Eunjoo. *Preaching in An Age of Globalization*. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 - \$25.00
5. Lord, Jennifer L. *Finding Language and Imagery*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN – 978-0-8006-6353-7 - \$12.00
6. Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 - \$17.83
7. Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon, Revised Edition: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018. ISBN-15018423490 - \$23.27

Class Files

Students will be responsible for viewing course files posted via Moodle. Course files will include video lectures, digital readings, and other assignments.

Class Assignments and Grading:

1. **Preparation, attendance and participation:** Students are expected to be present and on time in video form for all synchronous class sessions and activities. Late arrival or early departure from the Zoom sessions without permission will be considered in evaluating class attendance. Late submissions for class assignments will be considered in evaluating overall class performance. **Absence from multiple synchronous class sessions will be taken seriously as it will be considered as non-attendance and students may be required to repeat the class.** Participation in class assignments and activities includes individual and group activities. **10%**
2. **Reading Assignment Quizzes:** The reading assignment quizzes demonstrate your preparation to engage the material connected with the topic assigned for the class. **10%**
3. **Preached Sermons:** Three sermons preached according to the specifics provided for each on the syllabus and in class – different texts, sermon styles and congregational contexts will be provided for student selection. **Unless otherwise instructed, students are not permitted to provide their own text, sermon style, or context for preaching.** The timing of sermons and the grading of each is as follows:
 - Sermon 1 (6 - 8 minutes) – 10%
 - Sermon 2 (8 -10 minutes) – 25%
 - Sermon 3 (10 -12 minutes) – 35%
 - Total for sermons **70%**
4. **Written Sermon:** One pastoral sermon will be written according to the specifics provided on the syllabus and in class – texts and pastoral settings will be provided for student selection. **10%**

Manuscript Requirements:

A. For Sermons:

- 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. Given the virtual nature of the class, and the current situation caused by the pandemic, students will be asked to preach and record one sermon that will be reviewed by their classmates. All materials must be submitted electronically to the professors by 10:00 a.m. for Section

A or 2:00 p.m. for Section B, on the day you preach. For recorded sermons, the class schedule will provide the date and time that sermons are to be uploaded and feedback responses posted.

- Include the following identifying material on the first page of each sermon and exegesis manuscripts:

**LTRGY 500A or B – Preaching and Proclamation – Dr. Gennifer Brooks
and Dr. Andrew Wymer**

Student’s name

Sermon Identifier (1, 2, 3, or 4) 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 outlined 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.
- **Utilize Microsoft Word for all documents submitted.**
- **There are no footnotes in sermons,** but acknowledgement of the source must be made for all material quoted or referenced directly or indirectly. In sermons, such citations are included within the sermon manuscript, e.g. *As 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.”*
- The first draft of assignments will be reviewed in class in order to allow students to make revisions prior to submission. Submissions will be final.

B. For Homiletical Exegesis Papers

- Use **Times New Roman 12 pt. type double spaced, with at least 1-inch margins** all around and 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, and short paragraphs are generally expected for the responses to most questions. One-word answers are not acceptable.
- **Utilize Microsoft Word for all documents submitted.**
- Footnotes must be provided in the homiletical exegesis paper for all quoted or referenced material as appropriate. Consult Turabian (Chicago manual of Style) for the appropriate format of each footnote depending on the source of the material.
- Please check grammar and punctuation and **number all pages** on both the sermon manuscript and the homiletical exegesis paper before submitting your work.
- The first draft of assignments will be reviewed in class in order to allow students to make revisions prior to submission. Submissions will be final.

Schedule of Class Sessions

Week 1: 2/2 – Introduction to Good News Preaching

Introductions

Review of class syllabus, requirements, outcomes, and sermon rubrics

Preaching the sermon as the proclamation of good news

The preacher as embodiment of the good news

The Structure of the Sermon – Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Developing the Sermon Purpose Statement: Situation; Goal; Means

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching*, 1-23; *Graceful Speech*, 1-66, 191-204; *Ways of the Word*, ix-23

Week 2: 2/9 – Developing the Puritan Plain Style Sermon

Developing the Good News Statement

Crafting the Discipleship Message

The Structure of the body of the PPS sermon

- Exegesis
- Theological analysis
- Application

Movement, transitions, and balance of sermon contents

Reading Assignment: The Sermon Purpose Statement (file); Biblical Expository Sermons (file); *Delivering the Sermon*, 5-27; *Good News Preaching*, 25-48; *Graceful Speech*, 87-106, 137-156; *Ways of the Word*, 25-50

Week 3: 2/16 – Interpreting the Biblical Text for Preaching

Biblical interpretation for preaching

Selecting and engaging the Bible commentary and other interpretative tools

Integrating homiletical exegesis into a sermon

Questions for theological engagement of a biblical text

Connecting the biblical text to the congregational context

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching*, 49-68, 131-135; *Graceful Speech*, 107-120; *Ways of the Word*, 99-150

Week 4: 2/23 – Workshopping the Puritan Plain Style Sermon

Performing and embodying the sermon

Exploring the Physical Voice

Pulpit Protocols and Eye Contact

Understanding Movement and Posture

Sermon 1 Assignment Review

Reading Assignment: *Delivering the Sermon*, 29-86; *Good News Preaching*, 99-110; *Graceful Speech*, 173-190

Submit Puritan Plain Style manuscript and exegesis.

Scripture Texts: Genesis 9:8-17; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Week 5: 3/2 – Preaching Puritan Plain Style with biblical homiletical exegesis paper

Scripture Texts: Exodus 3:1-15; Exodus 16:2-15; Exodus 17:1-7

Submit final sermon manuscript and final homiletical exegesis paper.

Week 6: 3/9 – Topical Preaching

Selecting the topic in connection with the context (Sermon Purpose)
Deconstructing the topic to construct the sermon
Structuring the topical sermon with points - transitions and movement
Connecting the topic with scripture texts
Topical preaching as prophetic

Reading Assignment: Topical Preaching (file); *Good News Preaching*, 69-97; *Ways of the Word*, 151-182

Week 7: 3/16 – Developing the Topical Sermon with Points

Structuring the topical sermon with points - transitions and movement
Deconstructing the topic to construct the sermon
Biblical and homiletical exegesis of a topic
Topical preaching, public theology, and social justice
Connecting the elements of the sermon

Reading Assignment: *Ways of the Word*, 235-255

Submit funeral sermon manuscript with special occasions exegesis

Week 8: 3/23 – Workshopping the Topical Sermon with Points

Submit the manuscript for the topical sermon with points and the topical exegesis

Spring Break: 3/30**Week 9: 4/6 – Preaching the Topical Sermon with points with topical exegesis paper**

Submit final sermon manuscript and final topical exegesis paper.

Week 10: 4/13 – Pastoral Preaching for Special Occasions – Weddings, Funerals, Celebrations

Structuring the sermon for special occasions
Exegesis of the occasion and the context

Reading Assignment: *Graceful Speech*, 157-172; *Ways of the Word*, 183-234

Week 11: 4/20 – Narrative Preaching

The Biblical text as story
Finding the narrative structure in the biblical text:
 Situation, Complication, Reversal, Resolution

Deconstructing and Exegesis of the biblical story

Reading Assignment: *Ways of the Word*, 51-98

Submit funeral sermon manuscript with exegesis paper

Week 12: 4/27 – Developing the Narrative Sermon

Narrative sermon styles: Running; Delaying; Suspending; Alternating the Story;
Bringing the story alive through imaginative language
Workshop narrative sermon components

Reading Assignment: *How to Preach a Parable*, 42-170 (file); *They Like to Never Quit Praising God*, 71-131 (file)

Week 13: 5/4 – Preaching Assignment – Sermon 3 – Narrative Sermon (no Exegesis paper required):

Scripture Texts: Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:46-39; John 20:11-18

Selected Bibliography:

- Allen, Donna. *Toward a Womanist Homiletic: Katie Cannon, Alice Walker, and Emancipatory Proclamation*. New York: Peter Lang, 2013.
- Allen, O. Wesley Jr. *Preaching in the Era of Trump*. Saint Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2017.
- Gilbert, Kenyatta. *A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights*. Grand Rapids: Baylor, 2016.
- Helsel, Carolyn. *Preaching about Racism: A Guide for Faith Leaders*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2018.
- Johnson, Kimberly. *The Womanist Preacher: Proclaiming Womanist Rhetoric from the Pulpit*. New York: Lexington, 2017.
- LaRue, Cleophus J. *Rethinking Celebration*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.
- 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
- Satterlee, Craig. *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow*. The Alban Institute, 2011.
- Schade, Leah. *Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2015.
- Thomas, Frank. *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.
- Travis, Sarah. *Metamorphosis: Preaching after Christendom*. Eugene: Cascade, 2019.
- Voelz, Richard. *Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2019.
- Willimon, Will. *Who Lynched Willie Earle?: Preaching to Confront Racism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017.
- Wiseman, Karyn L. *I Refuse to Preach a Boring Sermon: Engaging the 21st Century Listener*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2013.