

Updated 1/28/2020

GARRET EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Preaching and Proclamation- LTRGY500B
Spring 2020

Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, Adjunct Professor
Office #: 847.869.6955
michael_nabors@msn.com

February 3 to May 11, 2020

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (by appointment)

Class Hours: Tuesday, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Course Description:

This course is designed to assist students to reflect, engage and learn the art of effectively preaching the Word of God in today's world. In doing so, the students will work towards developing their own preaching voice that will include effective preparation, pronouncement and proclamation. Classwork will indicate the clear importance of biblical interpretation, incorporating homiletic exegesis, theological insight, preaching context, and effective proclamation of the sacred text.

Students will learn various techniques and strategies for sermon preparation that will include clear biblical expository focus that includes exegetical material. During the course, students will also work towards developing their own unique approach to sermon preparation through examination and review of preachers, past and present. The course will include aspects of preparation including encountering the text, explaining the text and enabling the text.

Brooks' text *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon* will focus on finding and sharing the Good News found in the text.

Wilson's *The Four Pages of the Sermon* highlights focuses on critical points regarding preaching and helps students develop a clear method for sermon preparation on a regular basis.

Lowery's *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for the Modern Narrative* will help students learn essential and key lessons in planning and preparation for preaching from the parables and designing sermons for contemporary listeners.

Reflection of these and other assigned texts will assist the students in preparing, delivering and evaluating their own sermons, given during the semester.

Course Outcomes:

Knowing:

The sermon is a proclamation of the Gospel, which is Good News. The Bible is the foundation of the sermonic moment. The Holy Spirit plays a primary role both in sermon preparation and sermon delivery. All preaching must include these fundamental components.

Being:

In sermon preparation, the preacher is responsible for listening to 1) God. Such listening comes through reading God's word, prayer, reflection and the Holy Spirit. 2) People. Such listening comes through a relationship with the people, to/for whom the sermon is delivered. The preacher is aware of the people's "state" as they live in and through daily and weekly experiences. 3) Self. The preacher remains in tune with her/his own spiritual core as life's experiences change from week to week.

Doing:

The sermon is work. It is a designed process where the preacher works to research, prepare and deliver sermons of relevance, purpose and focus upon the cultural, social and global realities of the world. The sermon challenges and advances Christian discipleship. The preached word is a sermon delivery that is relevant and appropriate to the context of the congregation and its existence within the global context, affirming social justice for all people.

Class Assumptions and Expectations:

1. That all students have read and are familiar with the syllabus and responsible for meeting and completing 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 consult Moodle for class assignments, and be attentive to in-class updates of course information so assigned material will be read and all assignments will be completed and sermons preached as scheduled.
4. That all students understand the content of the course represents a beginning point in their 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 deems necessary to the course and development of the 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 colleges; to develop and maintain a spirit of collaboration within the classroom. 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 forth a particular view there preventing or unnecessarily curtailing the participation of other students.
- * **Moodle:** Students are expected to be familiar with the expanded class schedule, weekly readings and assignments that have been provided on Moodle. Students will be notified in

class of additional class readings and assignments as they are posted. **Where two sources of information may differ, in-class direction overrides the instructions 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 you receive.

Class Sessions:

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

1. **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, students are required to identify at least two or three significant points from each reading assignment and a thesis appropriate to the specified subject that can help to advance the group discussion.

2. **Professor's lecture** will focus on sermon development and the assigned reading for the week, with additional and ancillary resources on the reading that may come from reviewing preachers (DVD's) sermons, lectures or other antidotes supplied by the professor.

3. **Preaching, Verbal, Oratorical practice** in preparation for effective delivery of the sermon is a critical element in preaching. This segment will provide students with as many opportunities as possible to practice and develop preaching skills. At selected times, students will practice their preaching performance by delivering actual sermons.

Required Texts:

- Wilson, Paul Scott *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching* Abingdon Press, 1999 ISBN-13: 9780687023950
- Teresa L. Fry Brown *Delivering the Sermon* Minneapolis: Fortress Press: 2008: ISBN-9780800604479
- Lowry, Eugene *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989, ISBN-13: 9780687179244
- LaRue, Cleophus *I Believe I'll Testify* Westminster John Knox Press, 2011, ISBN-13: 978-0664236779
- Brooks, Gennifer *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon.* Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009, ISBN-13 9780829818222
- Taylor, Barbara Brown, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others,* New York, Harper Collins Publishing, 2018, ISBN 9780062406569

Secondary Texts:

- Thurman, Howard *Jesus and the Disinherited* Beacon Press, 1976, ISBN: 978-0-8070-1029-7

- Peterson, Eugene *Five Smooth Stones* William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980
- Bruggemann, Walter *The Prophetic Imagination: 2nd Edition* Fortress Press, 2001, ISBN-13: 978-0800632878
- Long, Thomas *What Shall We Say?: Evil, Suffering and the Crisis of Faith*, Eerdmans, 2014 ISBN-13: 978-0802871398
- Thomas, Frank, *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching, Revised and Updated*, Pilgrim Press, 1977, ISBN: 978-0-8298-1978-6
- Buechner, Frederick, *Telling the Story: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*, Harper, 1977, ISBN: 0060611561
- Durant, Will, *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time*, Simon & Schuster, 2002, ISBN-13: 978-0743235532

Class Assignments and Grading:

- **Preparation, attendance, participation:** Preparation for class will be assessed through demonstrated comprehension of assigned readings. Students will be present and on time for all class sessions, with timely return from breaks. Late arrival/early departure from classes will be considered in overall evaluation. **Absence from 3 or more classes will be considered as non-attendance and students will be required to repeated the class.** Participation in class sessions includes individual and group activities based on assigned readings. **10%**
- **Preached Sermons:** Students will preach three sermons during class using different scriptural texts and based upon preaching models studied. Multiple texts will be available for students and there will be considerable discussion regarding sermon preparation and delivery. The Professor will be available for personal discussion and questions leading up to the preached sermons. Sermons will be graded: Sermon 1 (5-8 minutes) **10%**: Sermon 2 (8-10 minutes)- **20%**: Sermon 3 (10-12 minutes)- **35%**. A written copy of the sermons are to be given to the professor before preaching.
- **Written Sermon:** Students will write a critique of a selected sermon, 8-10 pages long. The sermon will be identified with the professor and the student will listen to the sermon as well as read a copy of the sermon. The critique will include information learned from the classroom readings of LaRue, Wilson and Proctor regarding sermon styles. **25%**

Manuscript Requirements:

A written manuscript will be developed and submitted for sermons preached, along with a homiletical exegesis paper (as assigned). You may preach from the manuscript, the sermon outline or notes. All materials are to be submitted electronically to the professor, teaching fellow and TA by 9:00 AM on the day you preach. In addition to receiving feedback in class, students will review their preached sermons with the professor, make any corrections and re-submit a sermon manuscript for an improved grade (as necessary).

Include the following material not he first page of teach sermon and exegesis manuscript:

LTRGY500B - Dr. Michael Nabors

Name

Text

Title

Sermon Idea
Relevant Question
Sermon Style

Prepare all sermon manuscripts according the writing requirements in the academic student handbook. No footnotes in the sermon are needed.

Class Sessions:

Week 1: 2/3- Introduction to Preaching and Proclamation- the Sermon- the Preacher- the People

Class Introductions- name, denomination, understanding of preaching, favorite preacher

Critical review of the syllabus- laptop covenant

Defining preaching and its multiple components

Understanding the sermon as The Good News

The Sermon as *Kerygma* (proclamation) and *Didache* (teaching)

Getting better at preaching through- listening to preaching, study and persistence, desire, living with the text, focusing on the people, conscious of different ways people hear the gospel

Reading Assignment: Course Syllabus and review file on MOODLE

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

Week 2: 2/10: Preaching as Good News

Examining the Congregation- discerning the purpose of the text

Sermon purpose statement: Outlining the situation, discording the goal

Selecting and listening to the text in light of the preaching context

Identify the Good News in the text in relation to the congregation's context

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching- pgs. 1-23 and 59-68*; *Delivering the Sermon- pgs. 15-28*

In Class Performance: Select a sermon from any of the textbooks and prepare to deliver 5 minutes of the sermon. You are not required to memorize, but be prepared to deliver without having to read it verbatim or refer to remain glued to the manuscript.

Week 3: 2/17: The Discipline of Effective Preparation

The daily examen- becoming aware of God's presence, reviewing the day with gratefulness, paying attention to your emotions, choosing one feature of the day and praying about it, looking forward to tomorrow

Reviewing methods of preparation

Getting started, Connecting the Bible to today, Drawing on experience, Matters of style and substance

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching, pgs. 25-58, 131-135*; *Delivering the Sermon, pgs. 59-74*; *Four Pages of the Sermon, pos. 2-32*

In Class Performance: Practice homiletical exegesis for *Biblical Expository sermon* by use of selected text for Sermon 1.

Week 4: 2/24: Developing the Expository Sermon

Basic elements and structure of a sermon: Introduction/body/conclusion

Movement, transitions, balance of sermon content

Expository Preaching versus Topical Preaching

Developing the Plain Style Biblical Expository Preaching

Connecting the sermon; Good News, Exegesis, Exposition, Application, Discipleship

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching*, pos. 69-83, 99-104, *Delivering the Sermon*, pgs. 75-86

In Class Performance: Pulpit protocol = and exercise to enhance preaching performance; Preparing the body for preaching; i.e., throat and voice exercise; understanding movement; eye contact with congregation, handling the manuscript.

Week 5: 3/2: Preaching Assignment- Sermon 1- Plain Style- Biblical Exegesis Paper, Learning Exegesis for Preaching (see attachment at end of syllabus): **Scripture Texts to select from:** Romans Chapter 16 (the Diversity of the Church), 1 Peter 1: 1-9 (Joy), Acts 2: 36-41 (Unity), Ezekiel 37: 1-10 (the Spirit of God)

Week 6: 3/9: Homiletical Theology of the Four Page Sermon

Homiletical theology- the divine/human encounter

Homiletical theology in pastoral, ecclesial, and global context

Connecting Human Trouble with Divine Grace

Understanding the Four Pages as Homiletical Theology

Naming Trouble; Uncovering sin and evil in the text and in the world

Naming Grace; Uncovering God's presence in the text and in the world

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching*, pgs. 59-68, *The Four Pages of the Sermon*, pgs. 1-78

In Class Performance: Identify human trouble and divine grace in selected text and the chosen congregation context for Sermon 2.

Week 7: 3/16: Developing the Four Page Sermon

The Tiny Dog Now Is Mine- TTDNIM

Structure of the Four Page Sermon: The biblical/theological conversation

Homiletical exegesis for the Four Page Sermon

Finding trouble in the text and parallel trouble in the world

Finding grace in the text and parallel grace in the world

Reading Assignment: *Four Pages of the Sermon* pgs. 79-223, *Good News Preaching*, pgs. 88-97

Sermon Critique Paper Due

In Class Performance: Present Sermon Purpose, Good News, and Discipleship Message statements, the four pages of your sermon and the TTDIM based on your selected text for Sermon 2

Spring Break, March 23-27

Week 8: 3/30: Developing the Four Page Sermon

Developing the Four Page Sermon

Connecting human trouble and divine grace in the text and congregation

Writing the Sermon in Unity- TTDNIM/ Connecting the four pages coherently

Writing for listening- Orality in Preaching

Writing evocative sermons- Using imagination and media in sermon development

Incorporating media and imagery in preaching

Reading Assignment: *The Four Pages of the Sermon* pgs. 79-223, *Good News Preaching*, pgs. 88-97

In Class Performance: Select an image or video 2-3 minutes long that connects with one aspect of your text- either trouble or grace. It should offer a form of artistic representation that is appropriate for use in a sermon.

Week 9: 4/6: Preaching Assignment - Sermon 2- Four Page Sermon- with Exegesis Paper- Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-5 (Vision), Amos 5: 21-27 (Proclamation), Mark 1: 1-11 (Preaching with Power), Philippians 3: 1-14 (Personal Testimony)

Week 10: 4/13: Pastoral & Prophetic Preaching

Pastoral Preaching for Special Occasions- Funerals & Weddings included

Prophetic Preaching as Public Theology for Social Justice

Reading Assignment: *Assigned Reading will be shared by Cleophus LaRue and Eunjoo Kim.*

In Class Performance: Present a story connected with social justice that can be included in a sermon.

Week 11: 4/20: Narrative Preaching

Narrative of human experience and narrative preaching

The Scripture as Divine drama

Communicating a theology by telling a story

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

Finding the narrative structure in the Biblical narrative

Deconstructing and Exegeting the Biblical story

Using Incarnational Translation to contextualize the biblical story

Reading Assignment: *Good News Preaching*, pgs. 83-87, *Material from In Other Words* by Dow Edgerton and Charles Cosgrove

Week 12: 4/27 Developing a Narrative Sermon

Basic Structure of a Narrative Sermon- Situation, Complication, Reversal, Resolution
Narrative sermon styles; Running, Delaying, Suspending, Alternating the Story
Celebratory Preaching: A Narrative Journey of African American Preaching
Imagination in the Narrative Sermon
Reading Assignment: *How to Reach a Parable*, pgs. 42-170, *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God* (Frank A. Thomas) pgs. 71-76, 96-102 107-131, *Holy Envy* (Barbara Brown Taylor) Chapters 1-5, *Readings from I Believe I'll Fly Away* (Cleophus LaRue).

In Class Performance: Present Narrative Sermon Text with Sermon Purpose, Good News and Discipleship Message Statements, and sermon structure.

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

Scripture Texts: Genesis 9: 1-11(The Flood), Isaiah 6 (Responding to God), Jonah I: 1-12 (Running from God) Acts 9: 1-9 (Confronted by God)

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.
- 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.
- Brown, Sally A. & Luke A. Powery. *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.
- 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.
- Harris, James Henry. *The Word Made Plain: the power and promise of preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Jeter, Joseph R. and Ronald J. Allen. *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching for Different Listeners in the Congregation*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2002.
- Kay, James F. *Preaching and Theology*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2007.
- LaRue, Cleophus J. *Rethinking Celebration*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.
- 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.
- Mitchell, Henry H. Mitchell. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.
- 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.
- Satterlee, Craig. *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow*. The Alban Institute, 2011.
- _____. *When God Speaks through You: How Faith Convictions Shape Preaching and Mission*. The Alban Institute, 2007.
- 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.