

MNST 5212 INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING

Spring semester 2012

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

N-__ and Isaacson Chapel

Dr. Carol M. Noren, professor

In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of theology of preaching and how to move from text to sermon, how to construct a sermon, and how to practice these skills in a laboratory experience. The two sermons preached in this course are expository, and will offer you opportunity to use your foundation in biblical languages.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify your own gifts for Christian pulpit ministry
- Cultivate skills in expository sermon preparation
- Learn basic skills in oral communication
- Develop sensitivity to the liturgical, social, theological, historical, and cultural contexts in which preaching takes place.

Course Requirements:

1. All reading assignments as indicated on the schedule.
2. Midterm and final exams.
3. An appointment with the professor, to view your first sermon, which will have been recorded. The purpose of this 15-20 minute appointment is to discuss delivery.
4. A one or two sentence theology of preaching, composed during the first class session.
5. One in-class personal narrative.
6. Two preached sermons on assigned text.s The sermon assignments include written materials described later in the syllabus.
7. Absences and tardiness will count against your grade.

Extra Credit Opportunity

Write a 500 word essay on the Palmquist or Nyvall Lecture, tentatively scheduled for February 8 and April 12, respectively. Discuss the implications of the lecture content for preaching, and critique the style the presentation. If you choose to write this essay, it should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 1.

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities and activities. Students with a disability who believe they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act Services is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

Texts for the Course

Required:

Fred Craddock, *Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 1990, ISBN 0687336 481)

Richard Lischer, editor, *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom of Preaching, Augustine to the Present*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002, ISBN 0 8028 4609 2)

Thomas Long, *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible* (Fortress Press, 1990, ISBN 0 80006 23134)

Other briefer readings on reserve at Brandel Library

Recommended:

Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Preaching from the Old Testament* (John Knox Press, 1989, ISBN 0664250 424)

Paul Scott Wilson, *The Practice of Preaching*

Also on reserve in the university library:

Packet of reserve readings

Clyde Fant, editor, *Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching* (Volumes I, II, VI, XIII)

David Hunter and Edwina Hunter, editors, *And Blessed is She* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1990, ISBN 0-06-062335-7)

Jung Young Lee, *Korean Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997, ISBN 0687 00442-X)

Henry Mitchell, *Black Preaching: the Recovery of a Powerful Art*

Carol Norén, *The Woman in the Pulpit* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991, ISBN 0-687-45893-5)

Christine Smith, *Preaching as Weeping, Confession, and Resistance*

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Bread of Angels* (Cambridge/Boston: Cowley Publications, 1997, ISBN 1 56101-142-8)

Journals for preachers, available at the library:

Homiletic

Interpretation

The Living Pulpit

Pulpit Resource

World and World

Preaching

Web sites you may find helpful:

www.desperatepreacher.com

www.textweek.com

www.lectionary.org

www.logosproductions.com

www.preaching.com

www.PrepareTheWord.com

www.rockites.net/~spirit/sermon.html
www.sermon.central.com
www.sermons.com

General Notes on the Course

Your first, brief presentation

During a class session early in the semester you will present a brief narrative about a book *other than the Bible* that has made a significant impact on your life. This exercise will help us get better acquainted, accustomed to speaking before a group, and into the mode of bearing witness to someone/something outside ourselves. It will also provide a baseline sample of your speech. Tell the class your name, identify the book, and explain what difference it made in your life. This is not to be a mini-lecture. Your narrative should be 5-6 minutes long. You may use notes but not a manuscript during your presentation.

The Day You Preach

You must bring a good quality VHS cassette or DVD with your name marked on it to the class session when you preach your first sermon. Because this is an introductory course, and some of you have never preached before, your first sermon may be preached from a manuscript, if you wish. ***The second sermon may be preached from notes of up to 1/3 the sermon length, but not from a manuscript.*** *Violation of this rule will result in a substantial lowering of your grade for the course. Put the word count for both your notes and your sermon manuscript at the top of the first page* (click on ‘tools’ and then ‘word count’ to get the number). Failure to include the word count will also lower your grade. The sermon manuscript should be typed. If you work with any Bible translation other than the New Revised Standard Version, identify which version and explain your reason for using it.

Written Work (hard copies) Submitted the Day You Preach

- The sermon manuscript
- Whatever notes you took into the pulpit
- Your exegesis worksheet, which will be a minimum of 3 typed pages.

You will submit a manuscript for the second sermon even though you will be preaching from notes.) Do not submit photocopies of pages from commentaries. You must use the exegesis worksheet distributed in class as the outline for your work, and indicate throughout what questions you are addressing. Use the sample completed exegesis as a guideline. Do not submit material on the general background and authorship of the book unless this information is crucial for understanding the text. Answer these two key questions at the end of your work:

1. What is the purpose of this text, i.e., what is it trying to do?
2. What is the thesis of your sermon? (This should be expressed in just one or two

declarative sentences.)

List at least four different sources you used in your research and identify the publishing house and year of publication. These should be drawn from more than one publishing house or theological viewpoint (for example, not all Zondervan Press or all Orbis Books). Do not count different translations of the Bible as resources.

Any quotations or near-quotations from resource materials you used must be in quotation marks (if a quotation), and credited to the source from which it was taken. If you use anyone else's writing, preaching, or thinking in the sermon, you must indicate the exact length of the material you are using as well as its source.

The written work must be submitted during class time on the day you preach. Work submitted late will be penalized incrementally for each 24-hour period it is late.

Other matters that matter

1. You are expected to read the "Statement of Inclusive Language" in *The North Park Theological Student Handbook* and use it to guide your written work, preaching, and discussion in this course.
2. If your first language is not English, you may preach one of your sermons in that language, provided you also present a summary of your message in English, and provide the professor with a full manuscript of what is said. The same rule regarding notes vs. manuscript on the second sermon still apply.
3. No electronic devices, including laptop computers, may be used during class sessions. Cell phones must be turned off during class.
4. Food is not to be consumed in the classroom or Isaacson Chapel. Beverages may be brought into the classroom but not into the chapel. You may, however, have a glass of water in the pulpit when you are preaching.
5. Baseball caps, hats, bandanas or other head-covering will not be worn in the classroom or chapel unless you are currently undergoing chemotherapy, or unless it is an official part of the religious tradition to which you belong, e.g., a yarmulke.
6. If you are late for class when it is meeting in Isaacson Chapel, do not come in the side door. Instead, come in from the outside entrance at the east end of the chapel. Knock gently if the door is locked.
7. Work for the course must be submitted as hard copies, not email attachments. It should be 12-point Times New Roman font. List your box number and the word count on every assignment.

Getting Started

Your first sermon should be based on one of the following New Testament texts, all of which are upcoming lectionary texts. The Sunday each 'comes up' is in parentheses, but that doesn't mean you may preach on the text *only* on that day of the year. You should, however, pay attention to the Sunday in the church year if it is a major feast, such as Easter or Pentecost; among other things, the occasion will suggest the

direction the sermon and rest of worship should take. If a pericope is quite long, your sermon may be primarily on just a portion of the passage, if you wish.

Mark 1:9-15 (Feb. 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent)
 Mark 8:31-38 (Mar. 4 – 2nd Sunday in Lent)
 Mark 16:1-8 (April 8 – Easter Sunday)
 John 2:13-22 (Mar. 11 – 3rd Sunday in Lent)
 John 3:18-21 (Mar. 18 – 4th Sunday in Lent)
 Acts 4:5-12 (April 29)
 1 Cor. 1:18-25 (Mar. 11 – 3rd Sunday in Lent)
 1 Cor. 15:1-11 (April 8 – Easter Sunday)
 1 Peter 3:18-22 (Feb. 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent)
 1 John 4:17-21 (May 6)

Your second sermon should be based on one of the following Old Testament texts, all of which are upcoming lectionary texts. Again, if the pericope is unduly long, your sermon may focus on a portion of the passage, if you wish.

Genesis 17:1-7 (March 4 – 2nd Sunday in Lent)
 Exodus 20:1-17 (Mar. 11 – 3rd Sunday in Lent)
 Numbers 21:4-9 (March 18 – 4th Sunday in Lent)
 1 Samuel 8:4-11 (June 10)
 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 (July 15)
 Psalm 22: 25-31 (May 6)
 Psalm 51:1-12 (March 25 – 5th Sunday in Lent)
 Isaiah 6:1-8 (June 3)
 Isaiah 50:4-9a (April 1 – Palm/Passion Sunday)
 Jeremiah 31:31-34 (March 25 – 5th Sunday in Lent)

And Remember....

Preaching in a practicum situation is different from preaching in a local church, but you are nevertheless proclaiming the Gospel to people with real needs. Try not to use too much technical, in-house language that would be unintelligible to people without a seminary education. Each sermon should be 12-15 minutes long. All sermons for this course must be 'first run' material, not something you have prepared and delivered in another context or submitted for another course. You may wish to refine and polish the sermon after preaching it to the class, for use in a local church.

When you are listening to others preach, be an active listener and a thoughtful critic. Emphasize what the preacher did well, identifying his or her strengths. We are, after all, laying the foundation for one another's future pulpit ministry, and 'equipping the saints.' There will be in-class discussion of each sermon, and you will fill out a simple peer evaluation form. In order to minimize the stressfulness of the situation for the preacher, you are asked not to fill out the peer evaluation form until after the preacher has completed the sermon and sat down. The forms will be given to the preacher at the very

end of the class session, after all preachers for the day have done their presentations.

Schedule for the Semester

Week of January 16

Introduction to the course, bibliography, review syllabus

Discussion of what is good preaching means and viewing of videos

Presentation on theology of preaching

Development of one-sentence theologies of preaching

Read: *Preaching*, pp 13-65, *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*, chapter 1

Week of January 23

Presentation of in-class personal narratives

Meet in Isaacson Chapel

Read: *The Company of Preachers*, pp 69-82 (Richard Baxter and Jarena Lee); 169-181

(Augustine), 238-264 (Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Justo Gonzalez and Catherine G.

Gonzalez); *Preaching* 84-150; Samuel D. Proctor, "The Pastor as Teacher" in *We Have*

This Ministry, pp 13-30 (also in folder of readings on reserve in library)

Week of January 30 – Midwinter Conference -- No classes

Week of February 6

Theology and biblical interpretation

Read: Charles Grandison Finney, "Preaching for Conversion" in *The Company of Preachers*, pp 132-141; *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*, chapter 2;

Roberto Escamilla, "Invitational Preaching in the Twenty-First Century: Preaching for a Response" in *Come to the Feast: Invitational Evangelism* pp 41-61 (in the folder on reserve in the library).

Recommended Reading: *The Practice of Preaching*, chapters 4-5

Week of February 13

Theology and biblical interpretation

Read: *The Company of Preachers* pp 115-131 (Luther, Edwards, Wesley); *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*, chapters 3 and 5; sermon by Jean Baptiste Massillon, in the folder on reserve in the library)

Recommended reading: *The Practice of Preaching*, chapters 6-8

Week of February 20

Getting started on the sermon

Read: *Preaching* pp 170-193; *Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching* Vol. II, pp 12-18 (Luther. In the folder on reserve in the library)

Recommended reading: *The Practice of Preaching*, chapter 9; *The Company of Preachers*, 149-155 (Henry Mitchell)

Week of February 27

Shaping the sermon

Read: *Preaching* pp 210-222; *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*, chapters 6-7; Barbara Brown Taylor, "I'm Sorry, I Don't Dance" (in folder on reserve in the library); Carol Noren, *The Woman in the Pulpit* pp 115-140

Watch: Barbara Brown Taylor video in the *Great Preachers* series (on reserve in the library, down in Media Services)

Recommended reading: *The Practice of Preaching*, chapters 10-11

Week of March 5

Midterm exam

Illustrations and quotations

Your congregation and you; learning to speak the language

Read: handouts distributed for class session, plus photocopy by Joyce Meyer, "Joy Keeper #3: Be Uncomplicated" in *Seven Things That Steal Your Joy*, or watch Joyce Meyer's ½ program on channel 38, Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Recommended reading: *The Practice of Preaching*, chapters 12-13;

Week of March 12 spring break -- class does not meet

Week of March 19

Preaching Labs

Read: *The Company of Preachers*, pp 443-459 (Geoffrey Wainwright, William Willimon, Charles Campbell); Yolande Herron-Palmore sermon, "And Sarah Laughed: the Humor of God" (in folder on reserve at the library)

Week of March 26

Preaching labs

Read: Jung Young Lee, *Korean Preaching*, pp 92-114.

Week of April 2

Preaching labs

Read: Arthur John Gossip, "But When Tumbles In, What Then? From *Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching*, Vol. VIII (in the folder on reserve in the library)

Week of April 9

Preaching labs

View: Joel Osteen videotape (on reserve at Media Services in the library) or watch Joel Osteen on television, Sundays 9:00 a.m. channel 26.1.

Week of April 16

Preaching labs

Read: sermons by William Sloane Coffin and William Ashley Sunday (in the folder on reserve in the library)

Week of April 23

Preaching labs

Week of April 30

Preaching labs

Week of May 7

Preaching lab (Tuesday only, if needed)