

SAH-HOM6/715 'Tell me a Story!'

The Art and Craft of Storytelling

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“And he told them a parable...” It appears from the gospels, particularly the Gospel of Luke, that Jesus was invited regularly and frequently to dinner. Perhaps it was because he told such interesting stories. In this course, we shall work together on the skills of storytelling, not with the aim of gaining dinner invitations but with a view to effective communication.

It is sometimes claimed that humans are hard-wired for story. Whether or not that is true, at the very least, stories can be remarkably effective in carrying out Aristotle’s three functions of rhetoric, to instruct, to delight and to persuade. In this class we shall attempt to learn and to practise the skills that go into preparing and telling a good story. The use of story has been a matter of extensive discussion in both Bible and Theology in recent decades. Some of the key texts in the homiletical consideration of Narrative and Theology are represented in the select bibliography below. However, this is not a course either in the Theology of Narrative or Narrative Theology. It is rather a course in the art and craft of storytelling and, more specifically, its use in preaching and other religious communication. Our aim is not to learn or to create a theoretical framework for storytelling but rather to identify and to demonstrate the various skills involved in effective storytelling.

This is an oral based course. Only the “database” assignment (see below) will be submitted in writing

Pre-requisite: HOM500 or equivalent

Assignments

	<i>% of Grade</i>
Class participation, telling, listening to and critiquing stories	20
Reading a short story aloud and linking it effectively to the listeners.	10
Preaching a story based sermon	30
Creating a story database that will enable the students to collect and in good time retrieve homiletically and pastorally useful stories	30

Note: the database will be evaluated based on number of quality of entries and on the quality of organization that will make retrieval of stories possible

Two oral book reviews in class, one drawn from the section of the select bibliography on Bible, Theology and Preaching, and one from the Marketplace section. 10

Total 100

Required Texts

Stephen Farris, *Tell Me a Story*, a draft book manuscript by the instructor (The manuscript will be supplied.)”

Scott Hoezee, *Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons That Matter* (The Artistry of Preaching Series) Nashville: Abingdon, 2014 [Available, November, 2014, purchase of Kindle Edition advised]

The instructor will place various stories, excerpts from longer works and essays on the Moodle page for this course.

Other Homiletical Resources on Storytelling

Dan Boone, *Preaching the Story That Shapes Us*

Joe Cothen *The Old, Old Story: A Guide for Narrative Preaching*

Fred Craddock, Michael Graves and Richard Ward, *Craddock Stories*

G. Robert Jacks, *Just Say the Word: Preaching for the Ear*

Benji Kelley, *Preaching to Connect Truth to Life: The Power of Narrative, Tell the Story*

Barbara K. Lundblad *Marking Time: Preaching Biblical Stories in Present Tense*

James W. Moore, *Preaching as Art: Biblical Storytelling for a Media Generation*

Darius L. Salter *Daddy, Is That Story True, or Were You Just Preaching?*

Darius L. Salter, *Preaching as Art: Biblical Storytelling for a Media Generation*

1. Storytelling from Bible, Theology and Preaching

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*

Mark Ellingsen, *The Integrity of Biblical Narrative*

Richard Eslinger, *Narrative Imagination: Preaching the Words that Shape Us*

Richard Eslinger, *A New Hearing: Living Options in Homiletic Method*

Richard Eslinger, *The Web of Preaching: New Options in Homiletic Method*

Hans Frei, *The Eclipse of Biblical Narrative*

Garrett Green, *Scriptural Authority and Narrative Imagination*

Eugene Lowry, *Doing Time in the Pulpit: The Relationship between Narrative and Preaching*

Mark Powell, *What Is Narrative Criticism?*

Charles Rice, *The Embodied Word, Preaching as Art*

2. *Storytelling from the Marketplace*

All titles are available via Amazon Kindle.

Lisa Cron *Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers from the Very First Sentence*

Jonathan Gottschall, *The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human*

Akash Karia *TED Talks Storytelling: 23 Storytelling Techniques from the Best TED Talks*

Akash Karia *Public Speaking: Storytelling Techniques for Electrifying Presentations*

Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories.*

Jonah Sachs *Winning the Story Wars: Why Those Who Tell (and Live) the Best Stories Will Rule the Future*

Annette Simmons *The Story Factor: Inspiration, Influence, and Persuasion through the Art of Storytelling*