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HOM500
Fall 2024
Course Description

PURPOSE:

This course is intended to help students move from study of a biblical text to proclamation in a ministry context. Students will explore theologies of preaching, appreciate the contextual and personal dynamics of embodying the word, and begin to explore the options available to them for both the preparation and the delivery of sermons.

PREREQUISITES: Any 500-level Bible course

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:

- Demonstrate knowledge of biblical texts and their contexts.
- Utilize theological lens to integrate biblical vision with contemporary realities in ways that align with the calling of the church.
- Demonstrate understanding of one foundational method of sermon creation that can be modified and adapted.
- Evidence spiritual maturity to know oneself as beloved of God and care effectively for the pastoral and spiritual well-being of others.

FORMAT AND CONTENT:

This course meets for three hours on Thursday afternoons. This course will be limited to synchronous students.

Work in the course consists of classes including lectures, discussions and small group exercises. A significant part of the course will involve preparing and preaching sermons, listening to peer sermons, and participating in giving and receiving feedback.

TEXTS:

LaRue, Cleophus. *The Heart of Black Preaching* (Westminster John Knox, 2000).
(Chapter one only—the ebook will be linked)

Sancken, Joni, Luke A. Powery, John Rottman. *Getting to God: Preaching Good News in a Troubled World*. (Cascade, 2023).

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life* (Cowley, 1993).

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon* Revised ed. (Abingdon, 2018).

Students will select one additional book from a bibliography as part of a book review assignment.

EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

- Reflection paper (400-500) words using language from LaRue and class lecture to explore prior homiletical formation and comfort zones.
- Two exegetical reports on your preaching texts—these are NOT formal papers. The format involves simply answering a series of guided questions. Proper citation and a bibliography containing at least three sources including one non-white, non-male, non-western perspective and a book-length commentary of the book containing your text are required.
- Two sermons 10-12 minutes in length, one from Hebrew Scriptures and one from New Testament. The texts will be selected from a list of options. There may potentially be an additional mini-sermon as a class activity in the early weeks of the course. These sermons will be preached in class and generally extensions are not available.
- Sermon reflection paper—what worked well and what you might change if you preached again. What you see as your strengths as a preacher from this experience and naming a couple of preaching goals.
- Giving and receiving feedback is one of the most important parts of this course. We will spend time creating a safer learning environment where this can happen in lifegiving ways using a circle process.
- Book Review (400-500 words max) on a book selected from the course bibliography. This is a chance to explore another topic or perspective related to preaching. A detailed guide will be distributed.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Blount, Brian K. *Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

Bond, Adam L. *The Imposing Preacher: Samuel DeWitt Proctor and Black Public Faith* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.

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