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PR 610 C The Servant as Proclaimer

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“We can neither understand nor preach the gospel tangibly enough. A truly evangelical sermon must be like offering a child a beautiful red apple or holding out a glass of water to a thirsty man and asking: Wouldn’t you like it?”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Stacy R. Minger, Ph.D.

Email: stacy_minger@asburyseminary.edu

Office: 859.858.2048

Office Hours: Tuesday (9:30 – 11:00 AM)

Wednesday (4:00 – 5:00 PM)

Thursday (2:30 – 4:00 PM)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this class is to promote a partnership of teaching and learning that nurtures a vision of Christian preaching as a theological and pastoral activity of the Church in service to the Gospel.

The core objectives of this course have been established to facilitate critical understanding of and competence in view of: 1) preaching as witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ revealed in Christian Scriptures and 2) preaching as both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a human vocation which serves the creation of a community called to worship the Triune God as revealed through the narrative of the whole biblical canon.

This course approaches preaching as a theological practice and from a perspective shaped by the Wesleyan tradition; it is informed by a conscious integration of doctrinal and biblical exegesis and the practice of theological hermeneutics. Emphasis is placed on the life-long task of acquiring practical habits appropriate for cultivating judgment required for faithful communication of the biblical witness in service of the Word of God, as an act of Christian worship and within the context of personal, social and cultural challenge and change.

Prerequisites: SP501 and Inductive Bible Studies – 2.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Having successfully completed the core elective requirement in Preaching, student should be able to:

- Identify critical issues related to articulation of the biblical witness within a variety of contemporary contexts, and reflect on their relationship to the primary pastoral responsibility of faithfully communicating the Gospel in a manner that calls the Church to worship, love and obey the Triune God;

- Demonstrate fluency in the biblical narrative as the language and grammar of preaching, and a capacity for integrating theological wisdom, scriptural knowledge and cultural understanding in service of the mission of the Church;
- Demonstrate homiletic competence that integrates exegesis, theology and hermeneutics for preaching as a liturgical activity of the Church that bears witness to the kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ and narrated in the whole of Christian Scripture;
- Articulate a practical theology of Christian preaching that 1) demonstrates a capacity for integrating theology and pastoral practice and 2) displays an understanding of how the Wesleyan tradition informs pastoral ministry and the ecclesial practices of biblical interpretation and preaching.
- Demonstrate presentational skill with regard to vocal control, paralinguistic and body language that supports the sermon content as well as its reception by the worshipping body.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Cantalamesa, Raniero. The Mystery of God's Word. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1994.

Craddock, Fred B. Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Kalas, J. Ellsworth. Preaching from the Soul: Insistent Observations on the Sacred Art. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.

Webb, Joseph M. Preaching without Notes. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Note: At times throughout the semester readings and/or videos will be placed on reserve in the library or in the PR 610 course folder on First Class. You will be directed to these as appropriate to the progression of class discussion and assignments.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Class time will be structured to facilitate interaction with the assigned reading and with each other. It is my desire, as the instructor, to invite you into a learning community where each person's life experience and insight into the texts become resources for critical engagement and mutual learning. Each class period will consist of movement through a variety of learning activities based on individual, small group, and corporate interaction. As the instructor, I will often use Power Point presentations to highlight ideas and/or guide the class interaction. Power Point presentations will be placed in the PR 610 Course Folder no later than 2 hours prior to the start of class on any given day. You may choose to print these and bring them to class for note taking purposes.

Please note: due to the nature of the class as one that is designed not to "transmit" information, but rather interact with what we have already read as well as engage each other - *Please do not bring laptop computers to class*. While the use of these technologies in other learning settings may be of great value; in this setting their use will hinder the development of the desired learning environment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Date | Topic | Readings | Assignments Due |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 9/7 | Course Introduction | Syllabus | |
| 9/9 | The Servant as Proclaimer | Craddock, <i>1</i> Kalas, <i>Intro</i> | |
| 9/14 | The Scripture | Cantalamessa, <i>1- 8</i> Kalas, <i>1 & 8</i> | Interaction Paper #1 |
| 9/16 | The Contexts of Proclamation | Craddock, <i>2</i> | |
| 9/21 | The Contexts of Proclamation | Craddock, <i>3</i> | Interaction Paper #2 |
| 9/23 | Moving Toward Proclamation | Craddock, <i>4 & 5</i> Kalas, <i>2, 3 & 11</i> | Sermon Critique #1 (Video on Reserve) |
| 9/28 | Moving Toward Proclamation | | Interaction Paper #3 9/30 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 9/30 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 1 - 8 | Scripture texts | 5-7 minute homilies 10/5 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 10/5 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 9 - 16 | Scripture texts | 5-7 minute homilies |
| 10/7 | Proclamation Embodied | Craddock, <i>11</i> Kalas, <i>12</i> Webb, <i>Intro - 4</i> | Interaction Paper #4 |
| 10/12 | The Sermon Form | Craddock, <i>6 - 9</i> Kalas, <i>5 - 7</i> | Interaction Paper #5 Sermon Critique #2 (Video on Reserve) |
| 10/14 | The Sermon Form | | |
| 10/19 | Enriching the Form | Craddock, <i>10</i> Kalas, <i>9 & 10</i> | Interaction Paper #6 |
| 10/21 | The Preaching Event | Kalas, <i>13 & 14</i> | Sermon Critique #3 (Video on Reserve) 10/26 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 10/26 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 1 - 3 | Scripture texts | 12-15 minute sermons 10/28 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 10/28 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 4 - 6 | Scripture texts | 12-15 minute sermons 11/2 presenters post Scripture text/s Attend Chapel |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 11/2 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 7 - 9 | Scripture texts | 12-15 minute sermons 11/4 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 11/4 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 10 - 12 | Scripture texts | 12-15 minute sermons 11/9 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 11/9 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 13 - 16 | Scripture texts | 12-15 minute sermons |
| 11/11 | Guest Presenter | | |
| 11/16 | Preaching Week In and Week Out: Planning for Faithful Proclamation Over the Long Haul | | |
| 11/18 | Gospel Proclamationl at Weddings & Funerals | | Sermon Critique #4 (Video on Reserve) |
| 11/22 – 26 Reading Week | | | |
| 11/30 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 1 – 4 | Scripture texts | 14-16 minute sermons 12/2 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 12/2 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 5 – 8 | Scripture texts | 14-16 minute sermons 12/7 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 12/7 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 9 – 12 | Scripture texts | 14-16 minute sermons 12/9 presenters post Scripture text/s |
| 12/9 | <i>Student Proclamation</i> Presenters: 13 – 16 | Scripture texts | 14-16 minute sermons |
| 12/13 | Theology of Preaching Paper Due: 10 AM Beeson Center 217 | | |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Interaction Papers. Six 2 – 3 page interaction papers will be assigned across the course of the semester (see course schedule for due dates). The topic and specific instructions for the completion of each interaction/reflection paper will be posted in the PR 610 course folder on First Class one week before it is due.

In general, the interaction papers will provide a forum for you to: 1) Critically interact with the assigned reading; 2) Prepare for class discussion; 3) Link the readings to your life experience; and 4) Consider issues central to a theology of preaching.

Sermon Critiques. You will complete four sermon critiques in which you will view video tapes from previous Asbury Seminary chapel services. The critique for each viewing will be slightly different, reflecting the course material across the semester (directions for each critique will be posted in the PR 610 course folder on First Class no later than ten days prior to the assignment's due date). These critiques are designed as learning experiences that will give you the opportunity to 1) critique sermons (outside of a worship setting) through the application of class readings and discussion, 2) demonstrate your ability to identify a sermon's strengths and weaknesses, and 3) increase your acumen in the art of preaching.

You may choose to complete any or all of the sermon critique assignments with a partner from this class. When the assignment is done in dyads, only one critique should be submitted. If you learn more fruitfully through engagement and conversation with another person, this option may be for you. If you struggle to make connections between what you have read and what you observe, you also may benefit by working with a partner. Please submit your critiques to my office in the PR 610 course folder on First Class.

Sermons.

- Sermons will be delivered **extemporaneously** – that is, you will prepare thoroughly, but you should not memorize the speech nor read it word-for-word from a manuscript.
- Time limits for sermons must be observed in order to allow for all scheduled sermons to be delivered as well as provide opportunity for class feedback and critique of each presentation.
- All three assigned sermons must be completed in order to receive a grade for this course.

A Short Homily. The text for this homily is of your choosing. This first presentation gives you the opportunity to present and receive feedback apart from the weight of thinking about a grade. The points designated for this assignment (50 pts) are granted based on your homily preparation report and self-evaluation response.

The Preparation Report will be submitted in hard copy the day you preach. Specific instructions for preparing this report will be posted by September 16 in the PR 610 folder in First Class at which time they will also be discussed in class. Please find the initial information pertaining to the Self-Evaluation Response printed in this syllabus on page 7.

Time Limit: 5 – 7 minutes.

Sermon #1. The text/s for this sermon will be based on the Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, which has been assigned to you (see the schedule below for these assignments). The 200 points designated for this assignment will be granted as follows: Sermon, 150 points; Sermon Preparation Report, 30 points; and Self-Evaluation Response, 25 points.

The Preparation Report will be submitted in hard copy the day you preach. Specific instructions for preparing this report will be posted by October 7 in the PR 610 folder in First Class at which time they will also be discussed in class. Please find the initial information pertaining to the Self-Evaluation Response printed in this syllabus on page 7.

Time Limit: 12 – 15 minutes.

Sermon #1 Lectionary Assignments (Year C)

| Student | Date | Sunday After Pentecost | OT Lesson | Psalm | Epistle Lesson | Gospel (Luke) |
|---------|-------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 10/26 | <i>Tenth</i> | Isa. 1:1, 10-20 | 50:1-8 | Heb. 11:1-3,8-16 | 12:32-40 |
| 2 | 10/26 | <i>Eleventh</i> | Isa. 5:1-7 | 80:1-2, 8-19 | Heb. 11:29-12:2 | 12:49-56 |
| 3 | 10/26 | <i>Twelfth</i> | Jer. 1:4-10 | 71:1-6 | Heb. 12:18-29 | 13:10-17 |
| 4 | 10/28 | <i>Thirteenth</i> | Jer. 2:4-13 | 81:1, 10-16 | Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16 | 14:1, 7-14 |
| 5 | 10/28 | <i>Fourteenth</i> | Jer. 18:1-11 | 139:1-6, 13-18 | Philem. 1-21 | 14:25-33 |
| 6 | 10/28 | <i>Fifteenth</i> | Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28 | 14 | 1 Tim. 1:12-17 | 15:1-10 |
| 7 | 11/2 | <i>Sixteenth</i> | Jer. 8:18-9:1 | 79:1-9 or 4 | 1 Tim. 2:1-7 | 16:1-13 |
| 8 | 11/2 | <i>Seventeenth</i> | Jer. 32:1-3a; 6-15 | 91:1-6, 14-16 | 1 Tim. 6:6-19 | 16:19-31 |
| 9 | 11/2 | <i>Eighteenth</i> | Lam. 1:1-6 | 137 | 2 Tim. 1:1-14 | 15:5-10 |
| 10 | 11/4 | <i>Nineteenth</i> | Jer. 29:1, 4-7 | 66:1-12 | 2 Tim. 2:8-15 | 17:11-19 |
| 11 | 11/4 | <i>Twentieth</i> | Jer. 31:27-34 | 119:97-104 or 19 | 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5 | 18:9-14 |
| 12 | 11/4 | <i>Twenty-First</i> | Joel 2:23-32 | 65 | 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18 | 18:9-14 |
| 13 | 11/9 | <i>Twenty-Second</i> | Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4 | 119:137-144 | 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12 | 19:1-10 |
| 14 | 11/9 | <i>Twenty-Third</i> | Hag. 1:15b-2:9 | 145:1-5, 17-21 | 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 | 20:27-38 |
| 15 | 11/9 | <i>Twenty-Fourth</i> | Isa. 65:17-25 | Isa. 12 or Ps. 118 | 2 Thess. 3:6-13 | 21:5-19 |
| 16 | 11/9 | <i>Christ the King</i> | Jer. 23:1-6 | Luke 1:68-79 | Col. 1:11-20 | 23:33-43 |

Sermon #2. You may choose the text for this sermon from the Scripture assigned to the day of your presentation. The 250 points designated for this assignment will be granted as follows: Sermon, 175 points; Sermon Preparation Report, 50 points; and Self-Evaluation Response, 30 points.

The Preparation Report will be submitted in hard copy the day you preach. Specific instructions for preparing this report will be posted by November 11 in the PR 610 folder in First Class at which time they will also be discussed in class. Please find the initial information pertaining to the Self-Evaluation Response printed in this syllabus on page 7.

Time Limit: 14 – 16 minutes

Sermon #2 Scripture Assignments

| Date | Students | Scripture |
|-------|----------|--------------------------|
| 11/30 | 1 – 4 | Joshua 2 – 5; 7 – 8 |
| 12/2 | 5 – 8 | 1 Samuel 4 – 8 |
| 12/7 | 9 – 12 | 2 Kings 1 – 6 |
| 12/9 | 13 – 16 | Ezra 1 – 6; Nehemiah 1-6 |

Sermon Responses. After each homily/sermon, you will view the videotape of your presentation and complete the appropriate homily/sermon evaluation form found in the PR 610 course folder on First Class. Note, that there will be a different response for each homily/sermon. Your comments should reflect thoughtful engagement with the course readings, lectures, and class discussion.

The evaluation should be completed and emailed to my office in the PR 610 course with one week of the homily/sermon presentation. Upon receiving your self-evaluation, I will provide you with my completed evaluation and grade via email.

Final Essay. The final essay of 8 - 10 pages is not a research paper; rather this assignment provides you the opportunity to express your theology of preaching. Specific guidance for completing this assignment will be provided in the PR 610 course folder on First Class one month before prior to the due date.

COURSE EVALUATION

Points for the course will be distributed according to the following schedule:

Written Work

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Interaction Papers (6 @ 25 pts each) | 150 points |
| Sermon Video Critiques (4 @ 25 pts each) | 100 points |
| Theology of Preaching Paper | 250 points |
| Sermons (Proclamation, Sermon Preparation Report, Self-Evaluation) | |
| Homily | 50 points |
| Sermon #1 | 200 points |
| Sermon #2 | <u>250 points</u> |
| Total Points | 1000 points |

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the total points earned:

| <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>Points Needed</u> | <u>*****</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>Points Needed</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| A | 950 – 1000 | | C+ | 770 – 799 |
| A- | 900 – 949 | | C | 730 – 769 |
| B+ | 870 – 899 | | C- | 700 – 729 |
| B | 830 – 869 | | D+ | 670 – 699 |
| B- | 800 – 829 | | D | 630 – 669 |
| | | | D- | 600 – 629 |

COURSE ASSUMPTIONS

Classroom Community. It is assumed that you will engage in behavior that builds class community. This expectation includes: engaging in class discussion, practicing active listening, demonstrating respect toward all members of class, and refraining from nonverbal behavior that detracts from community. My personal “pet peeves” of this nature include: sleeping, not making eye contact, arriving late, leaving early, cell phones ringing, and knuckle cracking. You will have the opportunity to share yours on the first day of class ☺

Attendance. It is assumed that you will attend each class and be on time for each session. If you are ill or experiencing a family crises, you should contact me before class begins to make

arrangements for such an absence. One unexcused absence is allowed, for all others your final grade will be reduced by 5%.

Writing Skills. It is assumed that you have already developed writing skills appropriate to a Master's level degree program. You should be able to compose grammatically correct sentences, write well-developed paragraphs, and express your ideas in a well-organized coherent manner. In addition, you should be able to follow the MLA writing style guidelines, using correct citation and notation. Evaluation of written work submitted without attention to grammar, form, and style guidelines as well as the use of inclusive language will impact the student's grade.

Information Commons. It is assumed that you have the skill to access the library catalog and electronic databases. If you do not know how to use the available resources, be sure to ask the staff of the Information Commons for assistance and training.

Completion of Assignments. It is assumed that you will turn your assignments in on time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will result in a 10% grade reduction for each day that passes beyond the due date.

Academic Integrity. All written work and oral presentations for this course must be the original work of the student. The use of sources to support and develop one's written and oral presentations is encouraged with the appropriate documentation (please refer to Asbury Seminary's policy regarding plagiarism).

Special Needs. If you are disabled in anyway or have any type of health issue that may have an impact on either you or your classmates, please talk with me after the first class so that appropriate and reasonable accommodations can be made.

PERSONAL NOTE

I am pleased to have you in class and look forward to getting to know you better as we proceed through the semester. Please take note of my office hours and stop by for a visit; you do not need to have a class question or concern!

However, if you do have questions or concerns – absolutely – come see me! There are several course related reasons that may prompt you to stop by or make an appointment:

- One of the unique challenges encountered by students in this class is the fear of public speaking. A call to ministry does not automatically eradicate the anxiety related to speaking before an audience. Please don't let the anxiety overwhelm or paralyze you.
- You are not confident that your work/sermon preparation meets the criteria of the assignment. I would be happy meet with you. It is always better to clarify prior to the speech than experience regret afterward.
- Receiving sermon critiques can be ego bruising and emotionally challenging experience. If you want further clarification with regard to an evaluation, guidance on how to address identified weaknesses for future speech assignments, or simply a listening ear, I am available to you.

SYLLABUS REFERENCES

Fant, Clyde E. Bonhoeffer: Worldly Preaching. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1975.