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PR 610 Servant as Proclaimer

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Course Description

In the presence of the multiplicity of approaches to preaching, how does one orally communicate something of relevance from ancient texts to contemporary audiences? Are those to whom preachers speak to be considered consumers, spectators, or conversation partners? Does preaching provide entertainment, information, or persuasion?

As a prerequisite to all preaching courses, it is intended that this class provide an integrative approach to the theory and practice of preaching. The consideration of the dual functions of preaching as an act of worship to the God revealed in the Christian Scriptures and its role in facilitating a witnessing community emphasizes the preparation and delivery of a message for effective communication of the biblical witness in a variety of settings. Emphasizing the anointing ministry of the Holy Spirit in the effecting of sermons and the character of the preacher as person and prophet, this course views Christian sermon design as the outflow of a conscious incorporation of theological perspective, scriptural knowledge, and cultural understanding. The integration of exegesis, hermeneutics, theological vision and cultural analysis calls for imagination and clear communication for relevant utterance in the context of personal, social and cultural challenges.

Prerequisites: SP501 and Inductive Bible Studies – 2.
Objectives
Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able to:
⇒ Differentiate between preaching as a method and technique and preaching as a form of “doing theology” by relating principles of exegesis to the effective communication of the faith;
⇒ Discuss knowledgeably critical issues related to preaching in the contemporary context and their relationship to effective communication of the biblical witness in a variety of settings for facilitating congregational worship, articulating a variety of means by which to communicate the gospel;
⇒ Demonstrate facility of imagination for enriching the language of preaching;
⇒ Exhibit homiletical capacity for sermon design and delivery that integrates exegesis, theology and hermeneutics in the context of worship;
⇒ Present an introduction and draw a conclusion that clearly relates to the sermon, with content that communicates its identified topic without distractions (oral, auditory, moral or theological) and
⇒ Articulate a theology of Christian preaching for proclamation and witness in a way that integrates the above concerns in theory and practice.

Course Requirements and Reading

Class Preparation, Attendance, Assignments and Participation (20%):
• Assigned reading should be completed by the day listed. Attendance at and readiness to participate in all sessions of the class is expected. Two unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered by one full letter.
• Note that papers should be double-spaced, typed, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins. Written materials must be submitted on time. Late work will be read and graded but will receive no written comments. Pastoral responsibilities almost always include the weekly preparation of sermons regardless of circumstances. Therefore, late assignments of
any sort will result in an automatic reduction of grade by one letter. For each additional day an assignment is late, an additional reduction of a full letter grade will result.

- Persons are expected to participate frequently and substantively in peer evaluation, demonstrating constructive criticism and their reflective interaction with course reading and the sermon’s content.
- Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts, (2) taking notes on the assigned biblical text (see the preaching schedule, below), and (3) identifying their own observations for sermon development.

Sermon Design and Delivery (60%)
- Each participant will preach two sermons in class and write one additional sermon. In-class sermons will be from assigned texts. For each sermon, a manuscript, prepared in advance, is to be submitted at the beginning of class on the day the sermon is due. These should evidence a close reading of the text on its own terms, with attention to the usual literary, sociohistorical, and theological concerns including exegetical notes, and pastoral reflection that substantiate your homiletical development.

Final Assignment (20%):  
- A written essay describing your theology of preaching. Though not a research paper, this work should reflect your developing reflection on Christian proclamation in light of an integration of your ongoing theological education and the concerns of this class.

Required Texts:

One blank videotape is provided for each student enrolled in preaching classes.

Collateral Reading


Grading

Oral Sermons with manuscripts 50%
Written Sermon with manuscript 15%
Written Assignments and Weekly Participation 15%
Notebooks 5%
Final Paper 15%

As a foundational course for developing a theology of preaching, one of the objectives of this class is to set a trajectory for learning. The percentage of the final grade increases with each of the initial assignments. Value is placed on student demonstration of improvement over the course of the semester.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presenting of another’s ideas or writings as one’s own including both written and oral presentations. While preaching involves the repetition of ideas and concepts commonly held, by performing your own exegesis and idea development, your sermons will be fresh, new, and current, rather than work you have already used or presentations of a sermon presented by someone else. This will serve also to enrich your performance, as you offer original sermons which reflect your theological understanding.

In cases of suspected plagiarism, the instructor will meet with the student, to determine whether plagiarism has in fact been committed. In cases of student plagiarism, the instructor, working in conversation with the dean of the student’s School, reserves the options, depending on her judgment regarding the severity and
recurrence of the problem: (1) to provide an opportunity for the student to redo the same or comparable assignment, typically with the grade for that assignment penalized to account for the act of plagiarism; (2) to record a failing grade for the assignment in question; (3) to fail the student for the course; and (4) to recommend to the dean of the student’s School that the student be dismissed from the Seminary. A written report of the episode and of the disciplinary action taken will be submitted to and affirmed by the dean of the student’s School. The student may appeal the decision of the instructor through the normal appeal process.

Conduct that is considered dishonest includes: reusing previously and/or concurrently submitted material in another class without faculty permission, cheating by copying from another’s work, allowing another to copy from one’s own work, reading an examination prior to the date it is given without the instructor’s permission, and similar types of conduct. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted material such as music, library materials, computer software, as well as plagiarism, are other examples of academic dishonesty. (Seminary guidelines related to acceptable duplication practice of copyrighted materials can be found at the library’s circulation desk.)

(...adapted from Asbury Seminary’s policy regarding plagiarism)

**Incomplete Policy**

The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. (Fall 2003 = December 12th) This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any and all course work (Fall 2003 = Noon, December 9th) The Student must petition the faculty person involved and the student’s advisor for permission to receive an “I” at the end of a semester.

A grade of “I” denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as “F”.

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the “I” shall be changed to an “F” unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or an “I”, if approved to each student registered for credit in a course.
Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in new semester or term without permission from their Dean.

(From page 29 of the 2001 – 2003 Catalog)

- The computer lab is located in the library, and is open to Asbury Theological Seminary students. Lab hours are the same as those of the B. I. Fisher Library. Persons are expected to know how to use available programs. Manuals and tutorial exist for those willing to learn on their own. Check the library catalog for specific titles of available tutorials in the media collection.

- Indicated lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will be made available on the network. Students can review these materials by using one of the computers in the library computer lab and accessing the student drive.

Assignment Schedule

How Reading Changed My Life
Assignment 1 – A Book List
Due September 15th

How Reading Changed My Life
Assignment 2 – A Review
Due September 22, 2003

Sermons:

On October 13th, Everyone will submit a written sermon for ONE of the following themes/occasions: Mother’s Day OR July 4th OR a sermon for Easter Sunday OR a Christmas sermon OR Psalm 23. For this sermon, describe your audience, preferably a real congregation you know about, and describe the worship setting.

On October 27th Everyone will give a 5-6 minute homily, with notes only, on the assigned passage given on October 13th.

On November 10th or 17th you will give a 9-10 minute homily in class, without notes or manuscript, on an assigned passage, following the outline developed in class. (see below for assignments)
On December 8th, everyone will give a 5-6 minute homily, in a way you are most comfortable. You will choose your text, and follow the outline developed in class.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Proclaimer</td>
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<td>15 Sept</td>
<td>2. Changing Concepts of Public Christian Communication</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Assignment Due: Formational Book Lists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Sept</td>
<td>3. What is Preaching, Chapter 1 of <em>The Company of Preachers</em></td>
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<td><strong>Assignment Due: <em>How Reading Changed My Life</em>, Quindlen, 1 page Review and Response with a list of 10 books you want to read.</strong></td>
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<td>29 Sept</td>
<td>4. The Christian Rhetoric: How Do You Do That?</td>
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<td>Reading Due: Chapter 5 of <em>The Company of Preachers</em>, pg 277-354.</td>
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<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>5. Audience Attention: Conversation in Monologue</td>
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<td>Reading Due: Chapter 6 of <em>The Company of Preachers</em>, pg 277-355-410.</td>
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<td>Reading Due: <em>The Witness of Preaching</em>, Thomas Long.</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment Due: Written Sermon</strong></td>
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<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>7. Biblical Preaching</td>
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<td>Reading Due: Chapter 4 of <em>The Company of Preachers</em>, pg 169-276.</td>
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<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>8. Sermons</td>
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<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>9. Preaching in the Midst of Conflict</td>
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<td>Reading Due: Chapter 7 of <em>The Company of Preachers</em>, pg 411-467.</td>
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<td>10 Nov</td>
<td>10. Sermons</td>
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<td>17 Nov</td>
<td><strong>Due: Notebook (5%)</strong></td>
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<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>11. Sermons</td>
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<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>12. After the Sermon</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment Do: <em>Homiletics</em>, Barth Review of 3-4 pages.</strong></td>
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<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>13. Final Class – We will meet! (Sermons)</td>
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<td>10 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Due: Final Assignment (20%)</strong></td>
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<td>(That’s right, no exam!) An essay expressing your theology of preaching of approximately 2500 words, typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography to indicate who and what</td>
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influences your thought. A product of your semester’s work, this essay should reflect your own personal thinking. Representing your claim as to why and how we preach, this work should evidence faithfulness to the biblical witness narrated in Christian Scripture, critical engagement with the challenges of the early 21st century situation, and constructive work in the practical theology of homiletics. **Due by 12:00 pm, 10th December 2003.**

**Choose your text form the common lectionary, Year B for the Sunday assigned:**

**November 10th**

8th Sunday after Pentecost
- Psalm 51:1-12
- 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- John 6:24-35

9th Sunday after Pentecost
- Psalm 130
- 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
- Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- John 6:35, 41-51

10th Sunday after Pentecost
- Psalm 111
- 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
- Ephesians 5:15-20
- John 6: 51-58

11th Sunday after Pentecost
- Psalm 84
- 1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- John 6: 56-69

12th Sunday after Pentecost
- Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 OR Psalm 72
- Song of Solomon 2:8-13
- James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

13th Sunday after Pentecost  Bridget Dowdy
Psalm 125 OR Psalm 124
Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

14th Sunday after Pentecost  Adam Stevens
Psalm 19
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

15th Sunday after Pentecost  Glenn Sidler
Psalm 1
Proverbs 31: 10-31
James 3:13-4:3,7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

November 17th
16th Sunday after Pentecost  Marc Brown
Psalm 124
Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

17th Sunday after Pentecost  Jon Ferguson
Psalm 26 OR Psalm 25
Job 1;1; 2:1-10
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

18th Sunday after Pentecost  Duoci Huang
Psalm 22:1-15
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

19th Sunday after Pentecost  Angela Dempsey

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Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Job 38:1-7 (34-41)
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

20th Sunday after Pentecost  Matt Ernst
Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
Job 42: 1-6, 10-17
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46:52

21st Sunday after Pentecost  Glenn Scheyhing
Psalm 146
Ruth 1:1-18
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

22nd Sunday after Pentecost  Stephen Bittick
Psalm 127 OR Psalm 42
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

23rd Sunday after Pentecost  Frank Major
1 Samuel 2:1-10 OR Psalm 113
1 Samuel 1:4-20
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
Mark 13:1-8