PR 610 The Theology and Practice of Preaching

David L. Rambo

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Course: PR610 O1 (SP 2009)
Title: The Theology and Practice of Preaching
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 11/04/2008
Prerequisites:
- OT(IBS)6xx and SP501
- NT(IBS)6xx and SP501

Department: Preaching
Faculty: Dr. David Rambo

Email: david.rambo@asburyseminary.edu
Office: SPO:

Meetings:
During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Tuesday from 2:30p to 5:15p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 16

Catalog Description: This course 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 the 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 lifelong 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.

Objectives:

PR 610 THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF PREACHING
SPRING 2009 Tuesday 2:30-5:15 PM
David L. Rambo, PhD, Professor

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This beginning course in preaching will examine the context of preaching and present a methodology for expository, topical and narrative preaching. In addition to lectures and material from the required texts, the course will examine the video-taped preaching of three (3) preachers of ten (10) who were recognized in 1996 by a Baylor University survey to be the best contemporary preachers in the English-speaking world. The purpose of these sermons is to observe critically as these preachers deliver their sermon(s), to note specifically what makes them excellent, to incorporate from their messages helpful guidance for one's preaching and to deliver three (3) sermons that reflect what they have learned. Additionally, students will critically evaluate a recognized preacher in the area by a personal visit. Other taped sermons will be made available for out-of-class listening.

RATIONALE
This course will introduce three (3) major kinds of preaching through lectures and textbook reading. The professor is committed to the belief that preaching is best learned through practice under the evaluation of professor and fellow
students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To give a brief historical review of preaching with special emphasis on changes since the 20th century.
2. To provide an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of preaching in post-modern times.
3. To provide guidance in the preparation and delivery of sermons.
4. To increase awareness of the elements in good preaching.
5. To listen to, and evaluate, a brief video by three (3) preachers recognized in a 1996 Baylor University survey to be among the most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. John Stott will present an expository sermon, Haddon Robinson, a narrative sermon and William Willimon, a topical message.
6. To insure that disciplined study is faithful to the biblical text.
7. To attend a vital church in the student's geographical area and evaluate the service and the sermon.
8. To give opportunity to preach in class followed by a short written and verbal critique of the message by students and a personal meeting with the professor following the class.

REQUIRED READING


RECOMMENDED READING


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance at all classes. Student should call before class if unable to attend or a five percent (5%) course grade reduction will result.

B. Reading required texts with a two-four page report on dates due.

Henderson's CULTURE SHIFT DUE: February 17
Robinson's BIBLICAL PREACHING DUE: February 24
Lowry's THE HOMILETICAL PLOT DUE: March 3
Webb's PREACHING WITHOUT NOTES DUE: March 10

C. One (1) page description of a person, place or thing DUE: March 3

D. Preaching experiences: (To be assigned at the opening class session.)
   a. Twelve (12) minute expository message without notes (visual support encouraged but not required.)
   b. Twelve (12) minute topical message with manuscript but preached without notes.
   c. Twelve (12) minute narrative message without notes.

E. Fifteen (15) minute interview with the professor on final class day or exam week.

F. Attend and submit a one or two (1 or 2) page evaluation of a service and message.
   (Church should be 500 or more in attendance.) Due anytime during the semester before May 1.

CLASS SCHEDULE

February 10    Getting to know you
               Review of syllabus
               My journey in preaching

February 17    Constructing the Sermon

               Lecture: The Vital Components of Preaching
               Analyzing the Audience
               Analyzing the Text: The big idea
               Sermon Introduction
               Body of the Sermon
               Sermon Conclusion
               Manuscript or notes
               Sermon Title: Is it important?
               Sermon Delivery: Addressing the listening crisis

February 24    Preaching to keep them awake
               The case for expository preaching
Video Sermon by John Stott
Student evaluation
Student reading of 1-2 page description of person, place or thing
by Group 1 (first half by alphabet)

March 3
The case for topical preaching
Topical sermon by William Willimon
Student evaluation

March 10
The case for narrative preaching: cultivating the fine art of story
Narrative sermon by Haddon Robinson followed by student discussion
Lecture: Construction of a narrative sermon:

March 17    READING WEEK

March 24    Student Expository Sermons by Group 1 with evaluation
(1/2 by alphabet)

March 31    Student Expository Sermons by Group 2 with evaluation

April 7    Guest lecturer

April 14    Student Topical Sermons by Group 1 followed by student evaluation

    Group 2 will give a 3-5 minute verbal introduction to one of the following passages: (Matthew 8:23-27, Matthew 25: 14-30, Psalm 103)

April 21    Student Topical Sermons by Group 2 followed by student evaluation

    Group 1 will give a verbal 3-5 minute introduction to one of the following passages: (Luke 16:1-10, Joshua 1:1-9, Numbers 13:26-33)

April 28    Student narrative sermons by Group 1 followed by student evaluation

    Group 2 will give a verbal report on church visit

May 5    Student narrative sermons by Group 2 followed by student evaluation
Group 1 will give a verbal report on church visit

May 12    Sermon by Thomas Long with evaluation
          Sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor with evaluation
          Preaching that speaks to women by Alice Matthews

May 19    Scheduled fifteen (15) minute message evaluation with professor

DLR  November 3, 2008