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PR 610 A The Theology and Practice of Preaching

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PR610a The Theology and Practice of Preaching (3hrs)
First Class Meets Sept 13th – note assignment!

Fall Term 2004 (7th Sept - 17th Dec)
Mondays, 6:15 - 9:00 pm
Ad 303
Final Due: 14th Dec
Professor Joy J. Moore, PH.D (abd)
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SPO 1313
Office: Beeson Center BC219
859.858.2083
Fall 04 Office Hours:
Tues 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Or by appointment
(Generally unavailable on Mondays due to Meeting)

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? Should preaching provide entertainment, information, or persuasion? Are those to whom preachers speak to be considered consumers, spectators, or conversation partners? How might Wesleyan doctrines inform the oral interpretation of Scripture?

As a prerequisite to all preaching courses, it is intended that this class nurture a vision of Christian preaching as a theological and pastoral activity of the church in service to the gospel. Core objectives of this course will be to facilitate a critical understanding of and competence in preaching as a theological and ecclesial practice in view of 1) preaching as an act of 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 formation of a community who worship the Triune God as revealed through the narrative of the whole biblical canon. An emphasis will be placed upon the life-long task of acquiring practical habits appropriate to the pastoral vocation, focusing on the cultivation of judgment required for faithful communication of the biblical witness in service of the gospel in the context of personal, social, and cultural challenges. This course views the theological discipline of preaching as an act of worship and from the perspective of the Wesleyan tradition: Christian rhetoric shaped by a conscious integration of exegesis, hermeneutics, and doctrine for a 21st century audience.

Prerequisites: SP501 and Inductive Bible Studies – 2.

OBJECTIVES
Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able to:
- Relate principles of exegesis to the effective communication of a Wesleyan expression of 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;
- Demonstrate facility of the biblical narrative for enriching the language of preaching;
- Present both outline and manuscript forms of a message that integrates exegesis, theology and hermeneutics for the context of worship;
- Exhibit homiletical capacity for sermon delivery that faithfully communicates an explicitly Christian, theologically ruled, ecclesially located biblical witness; and
- Articulate a theology of Christian preaching for proclamation and witness in a way that integrates the above concerns in theory and practice, articulating a variety of means by which to communicate the gospel.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND READING

Class Preparation, 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.
- Note that unless stated otherwise, all 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, additional reductions 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. 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 three sermons in class and write one additional sermon. In-class sermons will be from assigned texts. For each sermon, a manuscript, prepared in advance, (including exegetical notes, and pastoral reflection that substantiate your homiletical development) 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.

Final Assignment (20%):

- A written essay describing your theology for 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:

⇒ Quindlen, Anna, *How Reading Changed My Life*. New York: Ballantine Publishing Group, 1998; and

COLLATERAL READING

⇒ LaRue, Cleophus J., *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000; and
Assignment Schedule

Due Sept 13th – **READING**: *Wesley’s Scripture Way of Salvation.*


Due Sept 20th – A 1 page **Review and Response** to Quindlen’s *How Reading Changed My Life* with **Formational Book List**

Due Oct 4th – A 3-4 page **Critical Review** of Barth’s *Homiletic*

Due Dec 6th – **Notebooks** of Quotes, Thoughts and Starters

Sermons:

On Sept 27th, everyone will submit a written sermon for **ONE** of the following occasions: Mother’s Day **OR** July 4th **OR** Easter Sunday **OR** Christmas **OR** Thanksgiving. For this sermon describe your audience, preferably a real congregation you know about, and describe the worship setting, therein setting the length and context for the sermon. *(Texts for Oct will be assigned)*

On October 18th, or 25th you will give a 8-10 minute homily on passage assigned Sept 27th.

On November 1st, 8th, or 15th you will give a 15-20 minute sermon in class, using notes only. Your text will be assigned from a lectionary reading in Advent. *(see assignments)*

On Dec 13th, everyone will give a 4-5 minute homily, according to the assigned guidelines. You may choose your own text and should set the sermon in a worship context that will include baptism.

Fall 04 Course Schedule

13 Sept 1. Public Christian Communication in a Post-Modern Context?

**READING DUE**: *Wesley’s Scripture Way of Salvation.*


*How Reading Changed My Life* by Quindlen

20 Sept 2. Christian Rhetoric for Theology and Proclamation

Assignment Due: **Review and Response** to Quindlen with **Book List**. Readings for next week: *The Company of Preachers*, pg 3-53;

*The Witness of Preaching*, pg 1-47

27 Sept 3. Theories of Preaching

Assignment Due: **WRITTEN SERMON**

Readings for next week: *Homiletics* by Karl Barth; *Witness*, pg 60 -77

4 Oct 4. CSI: The Witness of Preaching

Assignment Due: **Review of Barth’s Homiletic**

Readings for next week: *The Company of Preachers*, pg 355-408;

*Shaped by the Bible*

11 Oct 5. Passion and Hope: Ecclesiology that Follows Christology

Readings for next week: *The Witness of Preaching*, pg 78-155

18 Oct 6. ORAL SERMONS

Readings for next week: *The Company of Preachers*, pg 169-276;
25 Oct  7. ORAL SERMONS continued
Reading for next week: *The Witness of Preaching*, pg 156-188

1 Nov  8. SERMONS and Evaluation
Reading for next week (handout)

8 Nov  9. SERMONS and Evaluation
Reading for next week (handout)

15 Nov 10. SERMONS and Evaluation continued
Reading for next week: *Company*, pg 57-166 & 411-467

22 Nov 11. No Class – Fall Reading Week


6 Dec 13. Somebody Said: Sermons Audience Remember
Due: Notebooks

13 Dec 14. First and Only Sermons
Due: Final Assignment due no later than Noon 14th December 2004.
An essay of approximately 2500 words, expressing your understanding of theology for
preaching, typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography to indicate who
and what 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 as a reflection on
assigned readings.

Grade Range: Work for PR610 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.
The Seminary grading system recognizes:
- Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
  (note surpassing!)
- Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
- Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
- Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
- Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

A  = 95-100 Unusually high quality, exceptional work
A- = 90-94  Far above average, fine work
B+= 87-89  Above average for graduate work
B  = 83-86  Very good, average for graduate work
B- = 80-82  Slightly below average for graduate work
C+ = 77-79  Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work
C  = 73-76  Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work
C- = 70-72  Meets requirements, but serious gaps

D+ = 67-69 Minimal work
D  = 63-66  barely acceptable
D-  = 60-62  poor
F  = 59  or below Failure.

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.
Attendance Policy:
In the academic process, it is assumed that regular attendance is beneficial. In addition, the discipline of submitting oneself to a daily fixed schedule will be helpful in adjusting to the demands of ministry after graduation. In view of these considerations, responsible class participation is expected. The call for a variety of approaches to the teaching-learning process provides that peer discussion and observation can be as effective as lecture and readings. Consequently, one class may be missed without makeup. After this (one class missed), extra reading is required (100 pages per day missed: from the recommended reading list) and a two page single-spaced paper summarizing the extra reading. Two unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered by one full letter. If three classes are missed—serious conversation between student and professor is needed.

PREPARATION

Over the course of the semester, weekly assigned readings will average about 115 pages. Most of the reading, however, will take place during the beginning the semester, in order to allow for sermon presentation toward to end of the semester. This average does not include reading of Scripture in preparation for sermons. Students can expect that preparation for sermons will take an extensive amount of time due to the initial need of establishing an integrated theological perspective as well as garnering a cache of ideas for interpretation and implication. As a course integrating theory and practice, be aware this is not a class on technique but homiletics. Excellent communication skills are not sufficient to designate biblical preaching. Conversely, recital of exegetical or theological subject matter will not suffice as a demonstration of ability to craft and convey Christian proclamation. While preparation may normally take 12 to 15 hours, you may find yourself attending to this task even longer at the beginning. Diligence at this point will serve you in the future. Failure to build a supply at this time, will maintain the vacuum whereby sermon preparation will continue to be tedious or trifling, depending on how you manage the deficiency.
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 and preserve your integrity as a witness of God.

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 ATSeminary's policy regarding plagiarism)

INCOMPLETE WORK

The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. (Fall 2004 – Dec 17th) This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. (Fall 2004 – Noon, Dec 14th) 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 Dean of Academic Affairs. 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 Dean of Academic Affairs. 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 a new semester or term without permission from their Dean.

(Incomplete Policy from page 29 of the 2004 – 2006 Catalog)

- Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will be made available on the network.