

COS 324 – Preaching  
Spring Term 2019

**Teacher:**

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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on preaching the Gospel from the Old and New Testaments. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of proclamation.
2. Exegete a variety of biblical passages for preaching.
3. Evaluate sermons for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery, and appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons.
4. Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context.

**Textbooks:**

***Required Texts:***

1. Fred Craddock: *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*
2. Eugene L. Lowry: *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art From*
3. Cleophus LaRue: *The Heart of Black Preaching*
4. Barbara Brown Taylor: *The Preaching Life*
5. A Good Study Bible – a good example would be *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (NRSV). Please do not use or bring a devotional Bible or paraphrased version of scripture.
6. Paul Scott Wilson, Editor: *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*

***Supplemental Texts:***

1. Adam Hamilton: *Unleashing the Word*
2. Adam Hamilton: *Speaking Well: Essential Skills for Speakers, Leaders, and Preachers*
3. Luke A. Powery: *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope*

## Assignments:

***Due by March 1, 2019***

1. DVD and Manuscript of a sermon preached in your congregation. If you cannot make a DVD, then please call me upon receipt of the syllabus. I am requesting this assignment so I can learn more about your preaching style and context. Much of our preaching is shaped by the community we serve. This will help me learn some about you as well as know what context you will be working from in our course. This assignment will be for credit only.
2. Read *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching* by Fred Craddock. Write a paragraph with 3-5 sentences that captures the main idea on each chapter in the book. Then attach an essay (1-2 pages) exploring the following: 1) What you learned, 2) How you were challenged, 3) Where do you agree and disagree with Craddock, and 4) What ideas from Craddock's work will you incorporate into your preaching life? This assignment will be graded.
3. Please submit a written description of how you prepare to preach. Tell me what you study, how you study, and how you spend your week preparing for Sunday. What's your favorite preaching resource? Additionally, tell me how you do long term planning, how you keep sermon ideas/stories, and what, if any, group you may meet with to help you brainstorm/write sermons. This assignment will be graded.

Reading List to be completed before March 15th:

*Craddock on the Craft of Preaching* – Read the whole book

*The Preaching Life* – Read the whole book

*The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching* – Read the following sections:

- 1. **Bible:** Read everything **except** *Allegory/Allegoresis, Apocalypticism, Archaeology, Literal Sense, Philosophical Hermeneutics, Suspicion, Typology.*
- 2. **Bible Genres:** Read the introduction only
- 4. **Literary Criticism:** Read the introduction only
- 5. **Poetics:** Read the introduction and *Focus and Function Statements, Moves, Narrative Preaching, Theme Sentence*
- 6. **Preacher:** Read *Sermon Research* only
- 7. **Social Location:** Read the introduction only.
- 8. **Experience:** Read the introduction and *African American Preaching Perspectives, Celebration, Lectionary, and the Christian Year.*
- 10. **Sermon:** Read the introduction and *Deductive, Four Pages of a Sermon, Inductive, Manuscript, New Homiletic, Point Form, Popular Psychology, and Preaching*
- 11. **Theology:** Read the introduction only.

***Due by March 16, 2018***

1. A 10-12 minute sermon that you have written and preached prior to coming to class. You will preach this sermon in front of the class during our first weekend. It can be the same sermon that you submitted to me before the class started.

***Due by April 1, 2019***

1. Prepare an exegesis on one of the lectionary texts for April 7, 2019, April 14, 2019, or April 21, 2019.
2. Prepare a wedding or funeral sermon. This can be a sermon you have preached at a wedding or funeral. Attach a one page statement about your exegetical process for a wedding or funeral sermon.

***Due by April 26, 2019***

1. Write a sermon on the text you exegeted. Please bring 3 copies of the sermon with you. You will preach this sermon in front of the class and be graded for content, form, and delivery.

Reading List to be completed by April 26, 2019

*The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form* - read the whole book

*The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching* – Please read the following sections:

- 3. Ethics: Read everything in this section
- 6. Preacher: Read the introduction and *Leadership, Long-range Sermon Planning, Performing the Manuscript, Preacher's Creative Process, Preacher's Week, Preaching Out of the Overflow, Time Management, and Women*.
- 7. Social Location: Read *Collaboration, Preaching to Children, Preaching to Youth, Pulpit – Use of, and Worship Style*
- 8. Experience: Read *Lectio Continua, Lectio Divina, and Revivals*
- 9. Rhetoric: Read *Memory*
- 10. Sermon: Read *Funeral and Wedding*

***Due by May 3, 2019***

1. A revised manuscript of the sermon you preached in class on the second weekend. Your revisions should be based on the feedback you received from your classmates and instructor when you preached the sermon in class. Provide a 1-2 page reflection on the concepts from class and the readings that you are employing to revise the sermon.

2. Write (2) 2 page papers on any two sermons in Barbara Brown Taylor's book. Offer a reflection on the sermons and make sure to incorporate concepts from the readings and lectures. This assignment will be graded.

***Extra Credit***

1. Read a book from the supplemental textbook list and do a one page report.
2. Read 3 John Wesley sermons and write a half page critique of each sermon.
3. Begin your story file and provide me with documentation of the first 75 stories (can be in any format).
4. Attend a sermon preparation group at least three times before May 1, 2018. Write a 2 page reflection on how this group has shaped your preaching life.