



# Spring Valley

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## 324 – Preaching

Winter Term | Jan. 13, Feb. 3 and 24      Class time 9:00 – 4:30 (with 1 hour for lunch)

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, 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.

Text List: Required:

1. Craddock, Fred. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*
2. Barbara Brown Taylor – *The Preaching Life*
3. Cleophus LaRue, *The Heart of Black Preaching*

Supplementary:

1. *A Sermon Workbook: Exercises in the Art and Craft of Preaching* by Leonara Tubbs Tisdale, Thomas H. Troeger
2. Thomas G. Long, *The Witness of Preaching*

Your papers should be double spaced, 12-point font, in Times New Roman or Calibri, pages numbered.

Pre-class assignments *due at the beginning of the first class session*:

1. Pick a sermon from the appendix of *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Read the corresponding background and context of the preacher of the sermon, found in either Chapter 2 or 3. Following the descriptions of Black preaching in Chapters 1 and 4, describe the sermon in terms of the theology expressed, historical and cultural context, scriptural reflections, and the Black experience. 3-5 pages; 10% of grade.
2. Choose a sermon from Part 2 of *The Preaching Life*. Now turn to Craddock's book. How does BBT's sermon reflect, or how does it not:

- a. Preaching as storytelling
- b. The sermon as a twice-told tale
- c. Preaching and the nod/shock of recognition

→ Make sure you site the references to chapters and pages in the Craddock book. 3-5 pages; 10% of grade.

3. Watch or listen to a recording of a sermon you have recently preached. If you do not regularly preach, find a recent sermon delivered by a pastor you listen to regularly. Apply what you have learned about the sermon process outlined in Part 1 of *The Preaching Life*. What resonates and how? What makes the sermon effective- or ineffective? 3-5 pages; 10% of grade.

You will prepare sermons to be delivered in class February 3 & 24. The following are Revised Common lectionary texts, year B. Choose one text for each sermon- **you must preach on at least one First Testament text**. If you are able to do so, you are more than welcome to deliver this sermon in a worship context before it is delivered in class. I would love to hear any feedback, including your own. Your manuscript should be no more than 6 pages (20 minutes maximum). Include an additional page of exegetical work (commentaries, resources, etc- only one of which may be an online resource).

Each sermon will be 30% of your grade.

For February 3:

<a href="#"><u>Epiphany of the Lord</u></a> January 6, 2024	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 60:1-6</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ephesians 3:1-12</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 2:1-12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Baptism of the Lord</u></a> January 7, 2024	<a href="#"><u>Genesis 1:1-5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalms 29</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Acts 19:1-7</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mark 1:4-11</u></a>

For February 24:

<a href="#"><u>Ash Wednesday</u></a> February 14, 2024	<a href="#"><u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u></a> or <a href="#"><u>Isaiah 58:1-12</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalms 51:1-17</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>First Sunday in Lent</u></a> February 18, 2024	<a href="#"><u>Genesis 9:8-17</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalms 25:1-10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1 Peter 3:18-22</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mark 1:9-15</u></a>

Final assignment, due a week after the end of our last session. Write a two page reflection paper on what you will take from the class going forward. What learning from the books and classroom discussion was most impactful for you? What feedback from your sermons was the most- and least- meaningful? How has the preaching experience changed for you? 10% of grade. Email your reflection to me by February 17.

#### Related to Content

- Read the assigned books thoroughly.
- Resist the temptation to write a book report! Instead, focus your writing on what the author(s) have to say about the assigned topic(s), integrating your own thoughts about the topic(s).

#### Related to Critical Thinking

- Read the assigned books thoroughly, making notes of what resonates within you and what brings up resistance in you.
- Are there other books or resources that would be appropriate? Bring them into the conversation.
- Practice being in dialogue with all the authors and their material. Who would say what? How would you and the other writers respond? This practice dialogue will not be included in your papers, but it will help you to move into critical reflection.
- If you strongly agree or disagree with an author's point of view, offer your own affirmation or disagreement, supporting your view with additional resources.
- Watch for unsupported "leaps" made by a writer. What, in your opinion, is missing? Use additional resources to fill in the gaps.

#### Class Requirements and Recommendations

It is expected that Course of Study courses be rigorous and theologically robust educational experiences, designed and taught to satisfy the Course of Study objectives established by the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. To that end, students shall complete significant reading and writing assignments. Students and faculty are required to read and work with the material in the assigned texts. It is expected that students complete assignments, papers and projects equivalent to 20 pages per course. The standard number of class hours for each of the basic courses is a minimum of twenty (20) hours.

#### Advance Preparation

Advance preparation is required of all students in classroom-based courses. Assignments will include material related to classroom studies, as well as experience in pastoral ministry.

#### Class Attendance

A student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing twenty percent (20%) or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for those classes. Online work shall be included in the attendance policy.

## Grades and Evaluation

Course of Study Schools will use letter grades A, B, C, D, or F. If, for personal or family reasons, a student has to drop out of a course before completing it, an "Administrative Withdrawal" may be given. Grade reports will be sent to the Division of Ordained Ministry, the annual conference, and (in the case of the extension schools) the Regional COS Director. The deadline for grades will be 60 days after the completion of class sessions. Grade reports from the extension schools will indicate whether the student is a part-time or a full-time local pastor. Incomplete grades that are not resolved within 60 days will be recorded as an F. An F or Administrative Withdrawal grade will remain on the transcript even if the course is retaken and passed. Students who wish to have grade reports sent to undergraduate schools for purposes of receiving external degree credit may request them by writing to the Division of Ordained Ministry, COS Registrar.