Bangor Theological Seminary, Spring 2013,
Introduction to Preaching – PW1602p

Instructor – Rev. Dr. Susan Stonestreet
Phone – 207-322-1948 (cell) 207-763-4526 (home)
Instructor’s e-mail address – susanstst@aol.com
Office hours – by appointment
Day and Time – Tuesdays 9 a.m. – noon
Location – Portland campus
Credit – 3 hours, pass/fail

Required texts --


Texts on reserve –


Course objectives – To examine the task, the skills, the art and the gift of preaching as it fits into the life of a pastor

To read of and hear from skilled preachers so as to build a repertoire of expertise from which to draw on in one’s own development as a preacher

To practice preaching before a “forgiving congregation” of fellow students in order to begin to find one’s own voice as a preacher

Course work – Writing and preaching of two sermons (possibly three, depending on the number of students in the class) and critiquing of other students’ sermons for learning purposes

Reading of assigned texts and discussion of them in class

Listening to sermons of skilled preachers and discussion of them in class – these will be sermons delivered by preachers over the last eleven years of the Festival of Homiletics and will include the preaching of Fred Craddock, Barbara Brown Taylor, Jim Forbes, Tom Long, Barbara Lundblad, Tom Troeger, Desmond Tutu, Grace Imathiu, and Craig Barnes.

Attending at least one Sunday service in which the student will critique the sermon delivered OR
Reading one of the books on reserve in the library and writing a review and critique of it

Written work to be submitted to the instructor –

Two sermons (may be three, depending on the number of students in the class) – to be submitted on line on the day each sermon is preached (sermons handed in to be typed double spaced, but may be preached with notes, outline, or manuscript)

An exegesis for each of the two (or three) sermons preached in class and submitted with the sermon on line (no more than two pages double spaced). Consider the original context of the text, its essential message/witness for the community in which it originated, and how the text pointed to some conclusion or action for its original audience.

One written critique of a sermon heard on a Sunday, including reflections relating to its theological, pastoral, exegetical and homiletical aspects (at least two pages typed double-spaced), submitted on line by April 30th OR
A review/critique of one of the books on reserve in the library as it relates to the task and art of preaching (at least two pages typed double-spaced), submitted on line by April 30th

**Class and preaching schedule** – (some adjustments in the preaching schedule may be made depending on the number of students in the class and whether students preach 2 or 3 sermons)

**January 22**
- Orientation to the course (syllabus and schedule)
- What is preaching? Why do we do it?
- Listening to a skilled preacher – Barbara Brown Taylor – responding to the preacher
- Reading assignment – Long, Chapter 1; Taylor, Chapters 2-3; Howell, Chapter 1; Wilson, Chapter 2; King sermon

**January 29**
- What role does the faith and life of the preacher as a person have to do with the sermon? Possibly a guest speaker…
- Listening to a skilled preacher – Tom Long – responding to the preacher
- Reading assignment – Long, Chapter 2; Rzepka & Sawyer, Chapters 1-2; “Biblically challenged, Overcoming scriptural illiteracy,” *Christian Century* Nov. 3, 2009 (Susan will copy); King sermon

**February 5**
- What makes a good sermon?
- Round table with members of a congregation to discuss the preaching experience from both sides of the pulpit
- Listening to a skilled preacher – Walter Brueggemann – responding to the preacher
- Reading assignment – Long, Chapter 3; Brueggemann, Chapter 5 (Susan will copy); *Feasting*, p. 2-25; King sermon

**February 12**
- Overview of how we pay attention to theological, pastoral, exegetical and homiletical perspectives all at the same time!
- Listening to a skilled preacher – “tips” of Barbara Lundblad – responding to the preacher
- Reading assignment – Long, Chapters 4-5; Craddock, *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*, p.vii-8 (Susan will copy); *Feasting*, p. 26-49, King sermon

**February 19**
- 2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class
- Listening to a skilled preacher – Fred Craddock
- responding to the preacher
- Reading assignment – Long, Chapters 6-8; *Feasting*, p.50-73
- Craddock, p.31-50, King sermon
February 25-March 1  Reading Week – no classes

March 5  
Continuation of sermon #1 – based on Luke 10:25-37  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Listening to a skilled preacher – Tom Troegger – responding to the preacher  
Reading assignment – Long, Chapters 9-10; *Feasting*, p. 98-121; Craddock, p. 51-83, King sermon

March 12  
Continuation of sermon #1 – based on Luke 10:25-37  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Listening to a skilled preacher – Grace Imathiu – responding to the preacher  
Reading assignment – finish Taylor’s *The Preaching Life* (especially p.38-86); *Feasting*, p. 122-145, King sermon

March 19  
Continuation of sermon #1 – based on Luke 10:25-37  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Listening to a skilled preacher – Desmond Tutu – responding to the preacher  
Reading assignment – Craddock, p.153-193; Barnes, p. 123-136 (Susan will copy), King sermon

March 25-March 29  Easter Break – no classes

April 2  
sermon #2 – students’ choices  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Listening to a skilled preacher – Craig Barnes – responding to the preacher  
Reading assignment – Craddock, p.84-124, King sermon

April 9  
Continuation of sermon #2 – students’ choices  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Listening to a skilled preacher – Barbara Lundblad responding to the preacher  
Reading assignment – Craddock, p.125-150, King sermon

April 16  
Continuation of sermon #2 – students’ choices  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class  
Reading assignment – Craddock, p.194-222

April 23  
Continuation of sermon #2 – students’ choices  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class

April 30  
Sermon #3 – students’ choices  
2 students will preach and receive feedback from the class
Writing assignment due -- of either a book review/critique or a review/critique of a sermon heard (see bottom of page four and top of page five for instructions about this assignment)

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<th>Date</th>
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| May 7    | Continuation of sermon #3 – students’ choices  
Review of what was learned this semester about the craft of preaching  
Possibly continuation of preaching by students  
Course evaluation and feedback |
| May 17   | Semester ends, last day to submit Spring 2013 course requirements |