

PT 550
Homiletics I:
Proclaiming the Word of God
Trinity School for Ministry/North American Lutheran Seminary
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Amy C. Schifrin, *STS*

Contact Information:

Email: aschifrin@tsm.edu

Cell Phone (for emergency absences): 563-929-0909

Catalog Course Description: This course introduces students to the basic skills necessary to move from biblical text to homiletic proclamation within a Eucharistic Rite. Emphases will be on basic writing skills and oral delivery. Students will have multiple opportunities to preach and receive feedback within the classroom setting.

Relation to Curriculum: This is a required course that satisfies the requirements for all students in the M.Div. program. This course may also be taken as an elective by any M.A. student. STM students will contract with the instructor for additional assignments. A basic course in biblical exegesis is a pre-requisite for all students in the M.Div. program. M.A. students may receive a waiver of the pre-requisite with permission from the instructor.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the art and craft of biblical preaching within the Western Rite, particularly within Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian expressions the Divine Liturgy. Students will become familiar with 20th and 21st century homiletic theories and their doctrinal origins as they begin to design and deliver sermons to contemporary Christian assemblies. Students will work with the interplay of orality and literacy as they acquire competencies in addressing the lives of Christians in this day. By the completion of the course students should be able to grasp the basics of the classic law/gospel dialectic and use it as a hermeneutical resource for the shaping of their preaching from the Holy Scriptures. Preaching texts will be selected from the Revised Common Lectionary in order that students will have opportunity to prepare for future liturgical leadership.

Learning Outcomes: In keeping with Trinity School for Ministry's and the NALS Mission and Vision Statements and the NALC Standards for Ministry, upon completing of the course, students will:

1. Discover that the Word of God is reading them, as well as the assembly, as it is being proclaimed;
2. Understand that theology is meant for proclamation, and that all that they learn in exegetical, historical, confessional, systematic, and pastoral disciplines is of value to them as preachers as it shapes their understandings of the Holy Scriptures and of the purposes of preaching;

3. Know that pastoral care is a function of preaching, and that reading the context in which proclamation occurs is crucial to the communication of both law and gospel;
4. Experience the exegetical insights that come from praying the biblical texts as part of homiletic preparation;
5. That preaching as a performative doxological eucharistic exegesis of the Word of God within the Divine Liturgy is a liturgical act intended to lead the assembly to thanksgiving and praise;
6. That congruency of words and deeds are essential in the character of a Christian preacher;
7. And have the basic homiletic skills to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a congregational setting.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading for Class Discussion (5pts): Students will come to the task of preaching having heard specific preachers with varying hermeneutics and styles. The assigned readings present a greater historical sweep, so that students may begin to see the art and craft of preaching beyond the limits of their prior experience. Readings will also aid in formal sermon construction and in practical guidance for delivery. Be prepared to engage in discussions on the assigned materials.
2. Homiletic Writing and Aural/Oral Participation (5 pts.): Class sessions will include time for short assignments aimed at increasing skill in homiletic writing and speaking. Learning the differences between linear and aggregative ways of communication, between expository and evocative writing, and between a recitation of data and incarnational preaching is an art that is developed over time. These short exercises will become building blocks for a lively homiletic that is biblically and doctrinally sound as well as capable of moving the heart.
3. Student Presentation: (10 pts.): Each student will give a 7-10 minute presentation from a chapter in Stackhouse and Crisp. Be prepared to present the author's content and potential value for homiletic preparation, as well as any critique or praise of the author's hermeneutic.
4. Sermon Preparation and Delivery (80 pts.): This is the heart of our work together. Four sermon manuscripts, along with exegetical notes and analyses, will be required of all students. These sermons will be preached and evaluated in class. Preaching texts from both the Old and New Testaments will be assigned from the current lectionary cycle and will be a mix of Festival Days and Ordinary Time. In the course of the semester each student will preach from 1 Old Testament text (an appointed First Reading or Psalm), 1 Epistle, and 2 Gospel texts.

Grading Scale: The school's grade scale is as follows: A = 100-95; A- = 94-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D = below 70; F = below 60.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. Students who must miss a class period need to consult with me in advance. If a student has more than one unexcused absence from class, he/she will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on his/her final grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a violation of an author's/artist's intellectual property rights and is a serious offense. Please see the TSM Academic Catalog for a full explanation of Trinity's plagiarism guidelines and note, as stated there, that every student is expected to be fully aware of the guidelines. A student who plagiarizes will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and risks failing the course.

Incompletes: Incompletes are not normally given and are given only in the most serious of cases. In order to request an incomplete, student must obtain the necessary form online and bring to the professor who will list the specific assignments to be completed with due dates. The due date cannot be beyond six weeks from the last day of class. The form will be submitted to the Academic Dean for final approval.

ATS: As per The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) requirements, several samples of student work may be randomly selected and used as a class artifact as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs. Students' names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

Required Texts:

Childers, Jana. *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN 0687074231

Lischer, Richard. *A Theology of Preaching: The Dynamics of the Gospel*. Parthenon/Labyrinth, 1992. ISBN 1579106595

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Second Edition Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005. ISBN 0664229433

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot, Expanded Edition: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000. ISBN 0-664-22264-1

Stackhouse Ian and Crisp, Oliver. *Text Message: The Centrality of Scripture in Preaching*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2014. ISBN 13:9781610976732

Recommended Texts:

Holmes, Stephen Mark, Ed. *The Fathers on the Sunday Gospels*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780814635100

Wallace, James A. ed. *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2010. ISBN 9780814633465

West, Fritz. *Scripture and Memory: The Ecumenical Hermeneutic of the Three Year Lectionaries*. Pueblo Books, 1997. ISBN 0814661572

Class Schedule:

| DATE | TOPIC | READINGS |
|--------------|--|------------------------|
| September 7 | 20 th /21 st C Homiletic Theories (Traditional and Kerygmatic Preaching) | |
| September 14 | 20 th /21 st C Homiletic Theories (Transformational and Conversational) | Long, 1-68 |
| September 21 | Public Reading of Scripture; Praying the Scriptures; Designing the Sermon | Lowry, 5-25 |
| September 28 | Workshop: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching; Exegeting the Congregation for Preaching | Long, 69-98 |
| October 5 | Student Preaching I | Lowry, 26-73 (76-95) |
| October 12 | Student Preaching I | Long, 99-148 |
| October 26 | Student Preaching II; Reading, Writing, and Speaking for the Ear | Childers, 9-56 (57-98) |
| November 2 | Student Preaching II; Law and Gospel: a Resurrection Hermeneutic | Lischer, 1-46 |
| November 9 | Student Presentations on Stackhouse and Crisp | Stackhouse and Crisp |
| November 16 | Student Preaching III | Lischer, 48-62 (63-92) |
| November 30 | Student Preaching III | Long, 149-172 |
| December 7 | Student Preaching IV | Long, 173-197 |
| December 14 | Student Preaching IV | Long, 198-244 |