

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO
COURSE PROFILE

Spring Semester 2009

MN 340 Preaching

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Professor Satterlee is not available until the start of the semester.

Prerequisite for Enrollment: Successful Completion of Worship and either Jesus and the Gospels or Life and Letters of Paul

Statement of Goals

- To understand a theology of proclamation and the nature of the sermon as proclamation event.
 - To develop skills in exegesis for preaching, using both historical-critical and structural approaches.
 - To understand the principles of oral proclamation for both the scriptural word and the preached word.
 - To develop a method of sermon preparation.
- To experience sermon preparation and preaching as a spiritual discipline.

Outline and Content of the Course

Students register for both the lecture session and a small group laboratory session (Commuters receive Apriority seating@ for the lab section the same day as the lecture section). The large group session will be devoted to lectures in four areas: (1) Oral Communication (2) A Method of Sermon Preparation, (3) Theology of Preaching, and (4) Issues in Preaching. Small Group sessions will be used for oral communication exercises, work in sermon preparation, and preaching.

Assignments

- **Attendance** at all lecture and preaching laboratory sessions is expected (**10 percent**). Beyond being physically present, attendance includes (a) being on time, (b) completing reading, writing, and speaking assignments, (c) actively participating in class, (d) involvement in a collegial (i.e. gentle yet honest) discussion of the sermons presented in the small-group setting, and (e) offering prayer once during the quarter (see below). The reason for this assignment is that each one's learning depends upon the engaged participation of us all.
- Preparation, delivery, and review of **assigned speeches (10 percent)**. The purpose of this assignment is to give you experience of speaking publicly in this setting before you preach and to learn your style of oral communication prior to and apart from dealing with preaching.
- Two short **sermon reports (5 percent)**: Review a sermon, one from your own Christian tradition and one from another Christian tradition. For each sermon, prepare a **two-page** report, offering the preacher 3 commendations (page 1) and 3 recommendations (page 2). The assignment is intended

to help you listen to sermons critically and to begin the process of evaluating them. The assignment is also intended to help you to write concisely. Please follow the above directions!

- **Preparation and review of sermons with the instructor (5 percent).** The purpose of these sessions is so that I can work with you individually. These are live, face-to-face conversations; phone calls and email are not effective for this purpose. Please schedule appointments for preparation/logjam as soon as possible; the latest time is 48 hours before the preaching event. Please recognize that I am meeting with half the class each week so flexibility in scheduling is imperative. If you would like to explore an alternative way of meeting the goal of individual instruction, please make an appointment to see me.
- **Preach four sermons (50 percent).** The first will be on Jesus= encounter with the widow of Nain. Each student will select the text for the second sermon; the instructor is available for consultation and/or recommendation. Students select the texts for the third and fourth sermons from the lectionary according to the directions of the instructor. After the review of your sermons, please submit a ASermon Review/Revision Report@ the next week. The format for these reports is found in the syllabus.
- A short but substantial (6-8 pages) paper entitled **“My Theology of Preaching” (20 percent)**. This paper is meant to help you formulate your theology of preaching, i.e., why you preach. It is also an opportunity to integrate experience, lectures and discussions, and the reading for the course. Consider these questions: (1) Why do you preach? (2) What do you preach? (3) What roles do scripture, the world, the preacher, the hearers, the occasion, and God play in preaching? (4) What makes your preaching ALutheran@ (or your own tradition)? **This is the place for you to demonstrate that you have done the reading for the course!** When drawing upon other sources, it is important to cite them (I like footnotes). You may be creative in terms of form. Like a good sermon, the emphasis here is on quality not quantity.
- **Journal keeping:** Recommended, not required. A preaching journal is often helpful in charting development of insights for both sermon preparation and for the paper on your developing theology of the preached word.
- **Prayer before Class.** I would like each of you to take a turn offering a *brief* (corporate) prayer at the beginning of class. The purpose is to give you an opportunity to contribute to our spiritual life and develop skills in other ministries of the Word. We will follow the listing of participants in each small group.
- **Regular Chapel Attendance.** I wish I could require it! I do expect it! Corporate worship, hearing God’s Word preached, and making use of the Means of Grace are an essential part of the spirituality of the preacher. Also, LSTC is home to many fine preachers. Come and hear them!
- **Partners in Preaching.** Strongly recommended. Partner with someone for prayer, support, encouragement, and help. Use partners to share and discuss the readings.
- **Final Review and Assessment of Your Preaching.** One page: 3 commendations and 3 recommendations.
- Other assignments.

Bibliography

Craddock, F. *Preaching*. (Required)

Duck, Ruth C., *Finding Words for Worship: A Guide for Leaders* (Required)

Goldberg, N. *Writing Down the Bones*. (Highly Recommended)
Hoefler, C. *Creative Preaching and Oral Writing*. (Required)
ELCA, *Principles of Worship* (Required)
Rosser, A *Well-Trained Tongue* (Recommended)
Satterlee, C., *Presiding in the Assembly* (Required)
Smith, C. *Preaching Justice* (Required)
Troeger, T. *Imagining a Sermon*. (Highly Recommended)
von Oech, R. *A Whack on the Side of the Head*. (Recommended)
Other articles on reserveand LSTCNet (Required)

Additional Note

Those enrolled in the course will receive an email from the instructor with a link to answers to FAQs about Preaching Class prior to the start of classes. Or, you may visit the Students page at <http://craigasatterlee.com>