

**KNOX COLLEGE**  
**BASICS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING**

**KNP1352HF SUMMER 2018 Online**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sarah A.N. Travis**

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**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

The students will:

- Reflect on the practice of preaching in terms of its relationship to ministry and theology.
- Listen to effective preaching and discuss the practices of effective preachers that will enhance their own sermons.
- Describe various patterns of preaching, prepare a sermon based on a particular pattern.
- Consider the contextual nature of preaching by reflecting upon the local and global context of the congregation.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of exegesis for the preaching task by writing an exegetical paper based on Thomas Long's exegetical method and applying Long's method to sermon development.
- Practice the art of preaching a sermon by preparing and delivering a funeral homily and a full-length sermon.

**TEXTS:**

**Note:** All texts are on reserve in the Caven library. They can be purchased at online.

Allen, Ronald J. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox Press, 2016.

Travis, Sarah. *Preaching the Good News: A Preaching Handbook for Presbyterians in Canada*. Available for free download from [Presbyterian.ca](http://Presbyterian.ca)

**REQUIRED READING (located in the weekly lectures and readings tab):**

Allen, Ronald J. *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. Chapters 1 and 2.

Fry Brown, Teresa. *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body and Animation in Proclamation*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008. Chapter 3 and 5.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston, MA: Cowley, 1993. Chapter 7.

Resources for exegetical paper are identified on page 3 of this syllabus.

**MARKING SCHEME:**

1. Participation in Online Discussion 20%
2. Patterns of Preaching 10%
3. The Funeral Homily 20%
4. Exegetical exercise 25%
5. Preparation, Delivery and Assessment of Sermon 25%

**ASSIGNMENTS: DETAILS AND DUE DATES**

**1. Participation**

We learn to preach by listening to preachers. We learn to preach by reflecting and conversing about the nature of God's action in the world. In this class we will listen and read, reflect and engage in online conversation. I expect that you will be prepared each week to discuss the readings. I expect that you will pay attention to sermons we watch/listen to, and offer your opinions and questions.

Each week, you are asked to a) post a response to the sermon assigned, b) create at least 3 original posts, c) respond to at least 6 posts made by your classmates.

Evaluative Criteria: Contribution to class discussions, preparation of peer evaluations, familiarity with course readings and materials, online presence.

**2. Develop and Preach a Funeral Homily:**

Imagine that a 43 year old man has died, and you have been asked to deliver the funeral homily. Invent the circumstances of the man's death and the family context.

Choose an appropriate biblical text, and prepare a homily to be preached to the class. The homily should be 5 MINUTES MAXIMUM.

Write a one page description of a) the circumstances of the death; b) the family context of the deceased; c) the location of the funeral (i.e. Funeral home/ church/ graveside); d) why you chose this particular scripture text.

Sermons will be uploaded and watched by classmates, who will answer evaluative questions. These evaluations will be shared with you.

**Evaluative Criteria:** Use of biblical text; Clarity of theological reflection, Impact on listeners; effectiveness of delivery, pastoral responsiveness.

**Due: June 11**

**The one page description is due the day you upload your sermon.**

### 3. Exegetical Paper

The New Common Lectionary Texts, Year B, Mark 7:1-13. This is the lectionary text for Sunday, September 2, 2018. The form of this paper is **to follow Long's Exegetical Method for Preachers**. This means that your paper describes your experience with the process of exegesis outlined by Long. You must cite at least **10 sources**, including the following: (read the sections of these resources that pertain to Mark 7:1-13).

W. Brueggemann, C. Cousar, B. Gaventa, C. Newsome, *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary based on the NRSV – Year B*. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1993.

David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds. *Feasting on the Word, Year B*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008-2011.

Roger E. Van Harn, ed. *The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Text: The Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.

**Evaluative Criteria:** breadth of research, clarity of writing, adherence to Long's method, use of sources.

**Due: June 4. 8-10 pages** (These will be returned by June 8, to give you 10 days to write your sermon).

### 4. Patterns of Preaching Exercise.

a. Choose 3 patterns from Allen that are most appealing to you.

- b. For each of 3 patterns: i) In a paragraph, briefly describe the pattern, ii) explain the benefits and disadvantages of the pattern.
- c. Finally, choose one pattern (out of the 3 you have described) and prepare a sermon outline of Mark 7:1-23 based on that pattern.

**Evaluative Criteria:** quality of description, quality of writing, grasp of benefits/disadvantages, effective use of pattern in creating sermon outline.

**Due: May 28.** 3 pages.

## **5. Sermon Preparation, Delivery and Assessment:**

### **Delivery and Assessment:**

- a. The sermon will be based on Mark 7:1-23
- b. The sermon should be 14-16 minutes
- c. The sermon will follow one of the patterns described by Allen in *Patterns of Preaching*. The pattern chosen should be clearly marked on the sermon manuscript.
- d. You are not required to preach from a manuscript, but however a manuscript must be prepared and sent to the instructor in .doc format.
- e. Sermon will be watched by the instructor and the class. Members of the class will provide feedback following the presentation of the sermon by filling out an evaluation form and sending it to the preacher and the instructor.
- f. Instructions for recording and uploading sermons will be provided.
- g. After watching the video of their sermon, the preacher will **submit a one page self-evaluation** according to the questions provided.

**Evaluative Criteria:** adherence to time limit; depth and application of biblical exegesis; clarity of thought and language; theology and creativity; delivery; form, focus and function; consideration of context; quality of self- evaluation.

**Due: June 18**

## COURSE OUTLINE

### WEEK ONE

**May 7:** Welcome to the World of Preaching!

**Read:** Long, Introduction and Chapter 1.  
Travis, Chapter 3, 4, 5.

#### Lectures:

Introducing the Course and Syllabus  
A Short History of Preaching and the Reformed Tradition  
What is preaching? Why do we preach?  
Engaging and Choosing a Text

#### Exercises:

1. Introduce yourself on blackboard
2. Familiarize yourself with blackboard
3. Explore the websites textweek.com; lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu; preachingandworship.org
4. Watch Sermon. Post a response on blackboard.

<https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/12.06.15%20Luke%20Powery%20Sermon.pdf>

#### Discuss:

- What is the purpose of preaching?
- How do you feel about preaching? Frightened? Excited?
- In this technological age, is preaching still a valid activity?
- To Use the Lectionary; or not to use the Lectionary?
- Share something useful or interesting you discovered while searching the preaching websites.

### WEEK TWO

**May 14:** Preaching and the Biblical Text

**Read:** Long, Chapter 2 and 3  
Travis, Chapter 6

**Lectures:**

- The relationship between Bible and Sermon
- Long's Pattern of Exegesis for Preachers

**Exercises:**

- begin work on your exegetical paper
- Watch Sermon. Post a response on blackboard.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZL3QyGxOT4>

**Discuss:** What is biblical preaching?

**WEEK THREE**

**May 21:** Preparing a Sermon: Patterns, Focus, Function

**Read:** Allen, Patterns of Preaching: Introduction and Patterns # 1,2,4,11,13,18,23,28,31,34.

Travis, Chapter 9

Long, Chapter 4, 5 and 6

**Lectures:**

- Sketching some Common Patterns
- Preparing for Patterns of Preaching Assignment
- Focus and Function
- The funeral homily

**Exercises:**

- Practice creating form and function statements based on Deuteronomy 34:1-1
- Read sermon by Fleming Rutledge (attached to lecture page). Post a response on blackboard.

**Discuss:**

- What is the role of imagination in preaching?
- Which pattern discussed in Allen's book do you find most appealing?
- What do you think is the purpose of a funeral homily?
- Share the focus/function statement you have identified from Deuteronomy.

## WEEK FOUR

### May 28: The Art of Crafting and Delivering a Sermon

**Read** Long: Chapters 7,8, 10  
Fry Brown: Chapter 3 and 5  
Travis: Chapter 10, 11

#### Lectures:

- Crafting a sermon
- Introductions, Illustrations, Ending
- Effective 21<sup>st</sup> Century Preaching
- Finding your voice

#### Exercises:

- Watch sermon. Post a response on blackboard.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OobgXCEtmes>

#### Discuss:

- What is the place of personal anecdotes in sermons?
- Share with the group your own experience of preaching and technology, or what you have witnessed from other preachers.
- What do you think are your own strengths/weaknesses when it comes to delivering a sermon?
- Describe someone who is a role model for you with regard to public speaking (a preacher or public figure)

**Due:** Patterns of Preaching Assignment

## **WEEK FIVE:**

### **June 4:** Context, Theology and Evaluation

**Read:** Allen, *Preaching is Believing*, chapter 1 and 2  
Travis: Chapter 7, 12

#### **Lectures:**

- What does it mean to preach in Canada in 2016? What is our shared context for preaching? What is unique to each location?
- Reading from this place: How do we hear scriptures and sermons based on our social locations?
- Preaching as a Theological task
- Evaluating sermons

#### **Exercises:**

- How do you think sermons reflect the time in which they are preached? Find on the Internet or in a library two of the following sermons to study: Acts 2:14–39 (first century and New Testament period), a sermon by Jonathan Edwards (18th century) a sermon by Martin Luther King Jr. or Billy Graham (1950s, 1960s), a sermon by a renowned 21st century preacher (e.g., Fred Craddock, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rick Warren, William H. Willimon) In what ways do these sermons reflect the social and political context of the time in which they were preached? How would the same sermon be heard today? (From Travis, pg. 52)
- On a single sheet of blank paper, spend 20 minutes sketching or describing the basic elements of your own theology. For example, what is your understanding of the Trinity? Of Jesus? Of Creation? Of humankind? Of history?
- Watch sermon. Describe the sermon in one paragraph, and describe one theological insight you gained from the sermon.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOjpalO2seY>

#### **Discuss:**

- Share you own context for preaching.
- What is most challenging about preaching in Canada in 2017?
- Share something you learned from the exercise about how sermons reflect the time in which they are preached.
- Thinking back on the preaching you have heard through your life, how has it shaped your Christian identity



## **DUE: EXEGETICAL PAPERS**

### **WEEK SIX**

#### **June 11:** Funeral Homilies

- Watch funeral homilies posted by classmates.
- Complete evaluations questions for each preacher and send a copy to instructor by the end of the week.

### **WEEK SEVEN**

#### **June 18:** The Preaching Life/Preaching Sermons

**Read:** Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Preaching Life*, Chapter 7  
Long: Chapter 11

#### **Lectures:**

- Ongoing Practices of Effective Preachers
- Reflecting on what you have learned, and your growing edge!

#### **Exercises:**

- Watch sermon. Post a response on blackboard.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnSxG4jNDJw>
- List your fears about preaching. List your goals and hopes. What do you think will be your greatest strength as a preacher?
- See below for instructions regarding preaching/posting/watching class sermons

#### **Discuss:**

- has your mind changed about any aspect of preaching?  
Name one preaching skill you would like to develop/improve in the future.  
Which sermon did you watch this term that inspired you?

### **SERMONS DUE**

- Please upload your sermon. Watch each of the sermons of your classmates.
- Prepare a self-evaluation of your sermon.
- Prepare peer evaluations for 3 of your classmates (groups will be assigned)

**June 25:**

Self evaluations of sermons due by email

Peer evaluations of sermons due by email

**COURSE POLICIES:**

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox College Student Handbook*. In particular note:

**Late Assignments Policy:** You must contact the instructor in advance if your assignment will be late. Otherwise, 4 points will automatically be deducted after midnight on Tuesday. If you have informed me in advance that your assignment will be late, you will lose two points if you hand it in by Friday at noon, and 2 more after Friday at noon (to a maximum of 4 points per week.)

**Completion of Course work:** all course work (including any late work) must be completed by dates as set out by the Instructor. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. An SDF request form must be submitted.

**Style Guidelines for Papers:** see *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to see that in a professional program they must approach study as they would employment. To that end, it is a regulation of the Board of Governors of Knox College that a minimum of 80% attendance at lecture courses is required for credit: 100% attendance is required at seminar courses. Habitual lateness for class will be counted as absence.

**Inclusive Language:** Inclusive language is to be used in all class presentations and written assignments.

**Plagiarism Policy:** See TST Basic Degree Handbook

**Consultation:** Please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor about any questions you may have. E-mail is normally the most immediate form of contact.

## GRADING SCHEME

The grading scheme for this course is outlined in the Basic Degree Handbook.

## WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Ronald J., ed., *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

Allen, Ronald J., *Preaching: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

Allen, Ronald J., and Williamson, Clark, 3 Volume Lectionary Commentary. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press:

*Preaching the Gospels without Blaming the Jews* (2004)

*Preaching the Letters Without Dismissing the Law* (2006)

*Preaching the Old Testament* (2007)

Childers, Jana. *Purposes of Preaching*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.

Childers, Jana. *Birth of the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

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

Cooper, Burton Z. and John S. McClure. *Claiming Theology in the Pulpit*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2003.

Craddock, Fred. *Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Craddock, Fred. *The Cherry Log Sermons*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Davis, Henry Grady. *Design for Preaching*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1958.

Farris, Stephen. *Preaching That Matters: The Bible and our Lives*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1998.

Gordon, Dorcas and MacNaughton, Margaret, Eds. *Counting the Women: Sermons by Women*. Toronto: The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1994.

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- Lee, Jung Young. *Korean Preaching: An Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- Lischer, Richard. *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005
- Long, Thomas. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- McClure, John and Nancy Ramsay. *Telling the Truth: Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998.
- McClure, John. *Sermon Sequencing Workbook*. Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1997.
- McKenzie, Vashti Murphy. "Same No More." Printed in *Outstanding Black Sermons, Vol. 4*. Edited by Walter S. Thomas. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001.
- Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: Recovery of an Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Rice, Charles L. *The Embodied Word: Preaching as Art and Liturgy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1993.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 2000.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2004.
- Turner, Michael A. and Malaembri, William F. III eds., *A Peculiar Prophet: William H. Willimon and the Art of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
- Van Seters, Art. *Preaching as a Social Act: Theology and Practice*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.
- Wilson, Paul. *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.
- Audio-Visual Resources: Walter Allum Sermon Collection in the Ewart Centre for Lay Education: McKay Resource Centre, Knox College.
- Useful Websites  
[www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com)  
[www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org)  
<http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/thisWeek/podcasts.php>