Course Syllabus
KNP1352HS Basics of Biblical Preaching
Knox College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Instructor:	The Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis, Assistant Professor
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Office Hours:	by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	KNP1352HS
Course Format:	In Person
Course Name:	Basics of Biblical Preaching
Course Location:	Knox College, Rm TBA
Class Times:	Tuesdays 2-4pm

Course Description

This course introduces students to the art and craft of preaching. By the end of the course, students will have the basic skills to create and deliver sermons rooted in the biblical text. The context of congregations and the social location of preachers will be taken seriously, along with a variety of patterns and approaches to sermon preparation. Students will engage with examples of excellent preaching, with the goal of beginning to develop their own style of sermon preparation and delivery.

Course Resources

Book: Alcántara, Jared E. *The Practices of Christian Preaching : Essentials for Effective Proclamation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2019.

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

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

Article: Reid, Clyde H. "Preaching and the Nature of Communication." Pastoral Psychology 14, no. 7 (1963): 40–49.

Handbook: Travis, Sarah. *To Preach the Good News: A Preaching Handbook for Presbyterians in Canada*. Available for free download from Presbyterian.ca

Chapter - Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster/ John
    Knox Press, 2005, Chapter 4.

Course Website(s)

Quercus: https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Joan Pries for further help.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

- articulate the practice of preaching in terms of its relationship to ministry and theology.
- Critically evaluate 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.
- Identify 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 exegetical method and applying method to sermon development.
- Practice the art of preaching a sermon by preparing and delivering a funeral homily and a full-length sermon.

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas:

1.   Participation   15%
2.   The Funeral Homily   20%

3.   Exegetical exercise and sermon manuscript   35%
4.   Preparation, Delivery and Assessment of Sermon Preached In Class   30%

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 conversation. I expect that you will come to class each week prepared to discuss the readings for the week.   I expect that you will pay attention to sermons we watch/listen to, and offer your opinions and questions.

In addition to the regular activities of reading and discussing, you are asked to participate in an exercise about conversational preaching. As scheduled, you will prepare and preach a brief (5 minute) dialogical sermon in class based on a text of your choice. Instructions will be provided. This sermon will not be graded but its effectiveness will be discussed.

Students are also asked to watch one sermon each week (links provided). Please be prepared to discuss your impressions of the effectiveness of the sermon.

Evaluative Criteria: Contribution to class discussions, participation in peer evaluations, familiarity with course readings and materials, attendance (including punctuality), quality of preparation for conversational sermon.

2. Prepare and Preach a Funeral Sermon

Imagine that a member of your congregation has died, and you have been asked to deliver the funeral sermon. Invent the circumstances of the person'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.

Think through the circumstances of the death. Prepare a brief comment about 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. You will share this information with the class immediately prior to preaching your funeral sermon.

Evaluative Criteria: Use of biblical text; Clarity of theological reflection, Impact on listeners; effectiveness of delivery, pastoral responsiveness.
Due: November 15

3. **Exegetical Paper and Sermon Manuscript**
   - Prepare an exegetical paper based on the Gospel text for year A, the Sunday after Christmas. Luke 2:41-52. This paper should be approximately 3000 words. The form of this paper is **to follow the Exegetical Method for Preachers taught in class.** This means that your paper describes your experience with the process of exegesis outlined by the instructor. You must cite at least **10 sources** that are found in TST libraries.
   - **Prepare a sermon based on your exegetical work. This sermon should be approximately 1200 words. It will follow a pattern as described in Allen's Patterns of Preaching. Please identify your focus and function statements. This sermon will not be preached in class.**

   Evaluative Criteria: For the paper: breadth of research, clarity of writing, adherence to exegetical method, use of sources. For the sermon: Is your exegetical work evident in your sermon? Does it follow an identifiable focus and function? Does it adhere to the pattern you have chosen? Does it proclaim good news? A rubric will be provided.

   Due: November 1

4. **Sermon Preached In-Class**

   Delivery and Assessment:
   a. The sermon should be 10-12 minutes, and is based on a Lectionary text of your choice. Your sermon will be preached in class. Members of the class will provide feedback following the presentation of the sermon. The sermon will follow one of the patterns described by Allen in *Patterns of Preaching*. You are not required to preach from a manuscript. One week after you preach your sermon, **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. A rubric will be provided.

Due In class: November 22, December 29, December 6

Grading System - Basic Degree Students
1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding

80-84 (A-)   Excellent
    77-79 (B+)   Very Good
    73-76 (B)   Good
    70-72 (B-)   Acceptable
    0-69 (FZ)   Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. If students are late with coursework, they will receive grace in abundance if they contact the instructor in advance. Late work without explanation will be penalized 5% per day. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college Graduate Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college Graduate Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST on its website. See Section 7.11 of the Conjoint Graduate Degree Handbook.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register

at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-

utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1
September 13
Welcome to the World of Preaching!

Read*: Alcántara, Introduction
        Travis, Introduction.

Watch:

Week 2
September 20
Preaching as Conversation
An Introduction to Dialogical Preaching

Read: Alcántara, Ch 1
        Travis, Chapters 1-4
        Reid article

Watch

Week 3
September 27
Exegesis for Preachers: Part I – Conversations WITH the Text

Read: Alcántara, Ch 2.
        Travis Ch 5 and 6

Watch

Week 4
October 4
Exegesis for Preachers: Part II – Conversations ABOUT the Text

Read: Allen, Patterns of Preaching: Introduction and Patterns # 1,2,4,11,13,18,23,28,31,34.
Travis Ch 8,9

Watch:

Week 5
October 11
Exegesis for Preachers Part III: Conversations with the Congregation

Read: Alcántara, Ch 5 and 6
              Travis: Chapter 7

Watch:

Week 6
October 18
The Funeral Sermon

Read Alcántara Ch 3 and 4

Watch

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Week 7
November 1
Crafting the Sermon

Read: Travis, Ch 10.

Watch:
 DUE: EXEGESIS PAPERS AND SERMONS

Week 8
Delivering the Sermon

Read Fry Brown: Ch 3 and 4
Watch:

Week 9
November 15
Preaching Funeral Sermons

Week 10
November 22

Class Sermons

Week 11
November 29
Class Sermons

Week 12
December 6
Class Sermons

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