

# DRAFT

KNP 5307HF – FALL 2016

## PREACHING AND BIBLICAL METHOD

KNOX COLLEGE

Tuesdays 9 am – 11 am

**Instructor:** Professor J. Dorcas Gordon

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**Course Description:** In the past fifty years significant developments have taken place within biblical studies. A renewed focus on method and the task of interpretation has implications for the preacher in her/his weekly task of expounding the scriptures. This course will examine these more recent methods, including post holocaust, feminist, social science, postcolonial and empire studies and discuss their implications for preaching the biblical text. The course will focus on the intersection of these newer methods and the parallel developments within the “New Homiletic”.

### **Outcomes:**

1. By the end of the course the students will have acquired the following levels of knowledge:
  - Familiarity with various methods of biblical interpretation developed since the 1960’s;
  - Competence in the practice of exegesis using at least one of these methods;
  - Competence in the practice of sermon construction that honours both biblical interpretation and homiletical method;
2. By the end of this course students will have had the opportunity to demonstrate and enhance the level of their ability in the following areas;
  - How to develop a sermon that demonstrates judgment in using homiletical method in a complex context;
  - The analysis and evaluation of a sermon in terms of its choice of a method of biblical interpretation and an understanding of the complex task of interpretation required by it;
  - The ability to reflect on the theological significance of biblical method and the task of interpretation for the contemporary church and its preaching;

### **Assignments:**

1. A seminar presentation that explores how one method of biblical interpretation impacts preaching. As part of the seminar, the student will make available to the class for analysis and critique a sermon outline using this method.
2. A paper (approximately 20 pages) building on the seminar presentation that analyzes the relationship between biblical method and the New Homiletic with

commentary on the significance of this relationship for the contemporary church and its preaching.

3. Participation Mark: Part of your mark will be based on your contributions to class each week. This will include an evaluation of five 'Question & Observation' papers.

*These papers should be prepared prior to coming to class and be type-written. Hand-written submissions will not be accepted. Each 'question & observation' paper should include the following:*

1. One significant question you have about the assigned readings;
2. One significant observation you have about the assigned readings;
3. An insight which strikes you as being critical for preaching in light of the developments in homiletical method since the 1960's.

*Length:* no longer than two pages

At the beginning of each class, you will be asked to present your observation and question.

*Grading Rubric for 'Question & Observation' Submissions*

These papers will be collected each class and you will be assigned one mark for all of your 'Q & O' papers based on their overall quality. Your 'Q & O' submissions will be graded according to the following criteria:

1. demonstrate an understanding of, or seek to clarify, key ideas and terms;
2. relate new knowledge to previously studied ideas and concepts;
3. speculate about implications of particular biblical methods for textual interpretation and preaching.

**Evaluation:**

1. Seminar 35%
2. Paper 50%
3. Engaged Participation 15%

**Course Outline:**

**Please Note** – *Due to unavoidable absences of the Professor, the dates of three classes will be negotiated at the beginning of the term.*

**September 13 and September 20:** Biblical Interpretation and Preaching: Introduction

The (De)Attached Eye of the Preacher

***For next week, write*** Your Own Preacher's (de)attached eye naming the insights and questions it raises for you. This will form part of the discussion for next week's class.

***For the next topic, read:***

- 1) William Countryman, *Interpreting the Truth: Changing the Paradigm of Biblical Interpretation* (Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2003) Part 1 and Epilogue;
- 2) John J. Collins, *The Bible After Babel: Historical Criticism in a Postmodern Age* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005) chapter 1 and 2;
- 3) Laura Davidson and Kwok Pui Lan chapter in M. Shawn Copeland *Body, Representation and Black Religious Discourse* (New York, Routledge, 2002) pp. 180 – 198.

**September 27 and class date to be negotiated:**

The Historical Critical Method and the Post Modern Challenge  
Historical Critical Method and Preaching: Strengths and Weaknesses

***For the next topic, read:***

- 1) Philip F. Esler, *The First Christians in their Social World: Social Scientific Approaches to New Testament Interpretation* (New York: Routledge, 1994) pp. 19-36;
- 2) J. Dorcas Gordon, *Sister or Wife: 1 Corinthians 7 and Cultural Anthropology* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997) pp 35-58;
- 3) Leonara Tubbs Tisdale, *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1972).

**October 18 and class date to be negotiated:** Social Science Method

Social Science Method and Preaching: Strengths and Weaknesses

***For the next topic, read:***

- 1) Frederickson, Paul and Adele Ranhartz (eds.) *Jesus, Judaism and Christian Anti-Judaism: Reading the New Testament after the Holocaust* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002) chapters 4 and 5;
- 2) Marilyn J. Salmon, *Preaching Without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006).

**October 25                      READING WEEK**

***Class date to be negotiated and November 8:*** Post-Holocaust Interpretation

Post-Holocaust Interpretation and Preaching: Strengths and Weaknesses

***For the next topic, read:***

- 1) Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, *But She Said: Feminist Practice of Biblical Interpretation* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992), Introduction and Part 1;
- 2) Annie Lally Milhaven, *Sermons Seldom Heard: Women Proclaim Their Lives* (New York: Crossroads, 1991)

## November 15 and 22: Feminist Biblical Method

Feminist interpretation and preaching: strengths and weaknesses

### *For the next topic, read:*

- 1) Stephen D. Moore, *Empire and Apocalypse: Postcolonialism and The New Testament* (Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 2006) (Introduction);
- 2) Richard A. Horsley, *Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003);
- 3) Sugirtharajah, R.S. ed., *The Postcolonial Bible* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998) pp 91-116;
- 4) Eun Ju Mary Kim, *Preaching in an age of Globalization* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2011) Sermons, pp 113-148;
- 5) Marilyn Legge, "Negotiating Mission: A Canadian Stance in *International Review of Mission*, Vol. 95, #368 (January 2004) pp. 119 – 130.

## November 29 and December 6: A Postcolonial/Empire Interpretation

Post-colonial/Empire Interpretation and Preaching:  
Strengths and Weaknesses

### *Selected Readings:*

**There are many more works in each area that can be consulted. Students are encouraged to develop their own bibliographies in conjunction with what is listed below.**

### **Biblical and Homiletical Method**

Adam, A.K.M. ed., *Faithful Interpretation: Reading the Bible in a Postmodern World*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.

----- *Handbook of Postmodern Biblical Interpretation*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.

----- *Postmodern Interpretations of the Bible: A Reader*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

Edwards, O.C. Jr., *A History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.

Jasper, David, *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics*, Louisville: John Knox, 2004.

McClure, John S. *Otherwise Preaching: A Postmodern Ethic for Homiletics*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

Patte, Daniel, *Ethics of Biblical Interpretation: A Reevaluation*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.

Schneiders, Sandra, *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth, *Democratizing Biblical Studies: Towards an Emancipatory Educational Space*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2009.

Segovia, Fernando and Mary Ann Tolbert, eds. *Teaching the Bible: The Discourses and Politics of Biblical Pedagogy*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1998.

Wilson, Paul, *Preaching and Homiletical Theory*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004

### **Social – Science**

Harrington, Daniel, “Sociological Concepts and the Early Church: A Decade of Research” *Theological Studies*, 41 (1980).

Elliott, John, *1 Peter: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New York Toronto: Doubleday, 2000.

----- *What is Social-Scientific Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Malina, Bruce, *Cultural Origins and Cultural Anthropology: Practical Models for Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1986.

----- *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.

----- *The Social Gospel of Jesus: The Kingdom of God in Mediterranean Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

----- *A Social Science Commentary on the Book of Acts*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

----- *Social Scientific Models for Interpreting the Bible*. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Malina, Bruce and John Pilch, *A Social Science Commentary on the Letters of Paul*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.

Malina, Bruce and Richard Rohrbaugh, *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Malina, Bruce and Jerome Neyrey, *Calling Jesus Names: The Social Value of Labels in Matthew*. Sonoma, Cali: Polebridge Press, 1988

Neyrey, Jerome, *Christ is Community: The Christologies of the New Testament*. Wilmington: M. Glazier, 1985.

----- *Give God the Glory: Ancient Prayer and Worship in Cultural Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007

----- *Render to God: New Testament Understandings of the Divine*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

----- *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1991.

Pilch, John J., *Social Scientific Models for Interpreting the Bible*. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Tubbs Tisdale, Leona. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

### **Post Holocaust**

Allen, Ronald J. and Clark Williamson, 3 volumes: *Preaching the Gospels Without Blaming the Jews*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2004. *Preaching the Letters Without Dismissing the Law*. 2006. *Preaching the Old Testament*. 2007.

----- *Interpreting Difficult Texts: Anti-Judaism and Christian Preaching*. London and Philadelphia: SCM Press and Trinity International, 1989.

Fredrikson, Paula and Adele Reinhartz, eds. *Jesus, Judaism and Christian Anti-Judaism: Reading the New Testament after the Holocaust*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002.

Hall, Sidney G III, *Christian Anti-Semitism and Paul's Theology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.

Kee, Howard Clark Kee and Irvin J. Borowsky, eds., *Removing Anti-Judaism from the New Testament*. Philadelphia: American Interfaith Institute/World Alliance, 2000.

----- *Removing Anti-Judaism from the Pulpit*. New York: Continuum, 1996.

Salmon, Marilyn J. *Preaching without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.

### **Feminist**

Butler, Judith, *Feminists Theorize the Political*. New York: Routledge, 1992.

Chopp, Rebecca S. and Shela Greeve Davaney, eds., *Horizons in Feminist Theology: Identity, Tradition and Norms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Dube, Musa, *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.

Hunt, Mary E. and Diann L. Neu, *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views*. Woodstock, VT: Longhill Partners, 2010.

Milhaven, Annie Lally. *Sermons Seldom Heard: Women Proclaim Their Lives*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth, *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroads, 1983.

------. *But She Said: Feminist Practices of Biblical Interpretation*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

------. *Rhetoric and Ethic: The Politics of Biblical Studies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

Vander Stichele, Caroline and Todd Penner, eds., *Her Master's Tool? Feminist and Postcolonial Engagements of Historical-Critical Discourse*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2005.

Weems, Renita J. *Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible*. San Diego: LuraMedia, 1988.

### **Postcolonial**

Moore, Stephen D., *Empire and Apocalypse: Postcolonialism and the New Testament*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006.

Premath, D.N. ed. *Border Crossings: Cross-Cultural Hermeneutics*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2007.

Prior, Michael, *The Bible and Colonialism: A Moral Critique*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Segovia, Fernando. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2000.

Sugirtharajah, R.S., ed., *Asian Biblical Hermeneutics and Postcolonialism: Contesting the Interpretation*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1998.

----- *The Postcolonial Bible*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998

----- *Postcolonial Reconfigurations: An Alternative Way of Reading the Bible and Doing Theology*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003.

## **Empire**

Crossan, John Dominic, *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007.

Crossan, John Dominic and Jonathan L. Reed, *In Search of Paul: How Jesus's Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

Borg, Marcus and John Dominic Crossan, *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon*. London: SPCK, 2009.

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri, *Empire*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Horsley, Richard A. ed., *Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

----- *Paul and Politics*. Harrisburgh: Trinity Press International, 2000.

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth, *The Power of the Word: Scripture and the Power of Empire*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.