

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study

Fall Weekend Course of Study 2019

Oct. 11-12 and Nov. 8-9, 2019

Preaching

Instructor

Rev. Mandy Sayers

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Office Hours: By appointment

Emails will be answered within 24 hours and are the preferred communication method.

Course Description

This course provides an opportunity for students to increase their practical experience in preaching. Within a small group setting, students will preach to a congregation of their peers and also serve as peer evaluators for their colleagues' preaching. Through the practices of preaching, hearing and evaluating sermons, students will increase their skills in biblical interpretation, sermon construction, delivery and analysis.

Specific attention will be paid to deepening students' understanding of and experience in preaching. Alongside the practice of preaching, students will study examples of preaching in different forms and from different time periods. The ongoing interaction of scholarly reflection and practical participation are designed to strengthen students' preaching skills and provide life-long practices for developing themselves as preachers.

Course Goals and Student Objectives

1. Articulate a theology of proclamation.
2. Exegete a variety of biblical passages for preaching.
3. Evaluate sermons for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery, and appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons.
4. Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context.

Course Policies and Requirements

The class will meet as assigned for two weekends in the fall. We will begin on time. Because of the limited frequency of our class time, your attendance and participation are very important.

Guidelines for Sermons

A written manuscript of each sermon is due to the professor on your preaching day. Please submit all written sermons in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins. Pages should be numbered and your name should appear on all pages. You may submit sermons electronically, but submissions must be emailed by 9 a.m. on the day of preaching.

Students must write an original, new sermon for each preaching occasion in this class. You may not use sermons written for prior classes or preaching engagements.

Sermons are to be 7 pages, double spaced (which should work out to about 15 min in length).

Sermons will be graded on the following five criteria:

- Evidence of careful exegetical work
- Evidence of intentional theological reflection
- The sermon's structure and coherence
- The strength of the sermon's overall message
- The delivery of the sermon

Students are encouraged to share their developing sermons with one another. I am happy to speak with students about their sermons as they are forming but will not review any manuscripts prior to preaching. All students are welcome to schedule a one on one meeting with me to discuss their preaching.

Required Texts

Sally A. Brown and Luke Powery. *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

Barbara Brown Taylor. *The Preaching Life*. Lanham: Rowan and Littlefield, 1993.

Leonora Tibbs Tisdale and Thomas H. Troeger. *A Sermon Workbook: Exercises in the Art and Craft of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.

Weather Policy

If the Seminary is open, we will have class. If the Seminary is closed, class is cancelled. If the Seminary is closed, there will be an announcement on the Wesley web site as well as a recorded message at the main switchboard number: 202-885-8600. I will also send out an email to the class. It is also suggested that students should sign up for WesleyAlerts by sending an email to WesleyAlerts@wesleyseminary.edu.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offence and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. Wesley Theological Seminary regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- Copying from another student's paper
- Borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another, whether from books, a friend, or the Internet.
- Submitting as one's own work a paper written (or partially written) by another.

In questions of academic dishonesty (including cheating on exams or papers and plagiarism), I will report the circumstances of the case to the Dean. In first instances of proven plagiarism or dishonesty, the student will receive a "Fail" grade for the course. Second instances will result in automatic separation from the Seminary.

Please see the Wesley Theological Seminary Catalog for further details.

Before the First Class:

Read *Ways of the Word* (all of it).

Read *The Preaching Life* (all of it).

Assignment One (Due at the start of our first class session): Barbara Brown Taylor reflects on her vocational life and what preaching means to her. Write a 3-5 page paper reflecting on some aspect of "Part One: The Life of Faith" that particularly speaks to your own sense of what it means to preach. (10% of grade)

Assignment Two (Due at the start of our first class session): Take one of the sermons in "Part Two" of *The Preaching Life*. Write a 3-5 page reflection paper in which you analyze the sermon. What choices did the preacher make and why? Did you think the sermon was faithful or effective? Why or why not? What would you have done differently? (10% of grade)

Assignment Three (Due at the start of our first class session): Prepare a sermon for preaching our first weekend together. (You should use what you learn from your reading of *Ways of the Word* to help you in your preparation). It should be based on ONE text only. Below, I've listed the lectionary readings for 4 weeks. Pick ONE text from ONE of the weeks to preach on. You must turn in a manuscript (see guidelines for that, above). Your manuscript should be 7 pages long, which should work out to about 15 min as delivered. (20% of grade)

For example, I might choose Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 from Oct. 13. OR I might choose Luke 19:1-10 from Nov. 3. You only have to choose ONE. I'm listing so many so that you have a lot of choices. The sermon must be on one from the list, however. The "congregation" for your sermon will be the church you currently serve or, if you are not

serving a church, the ‘congregation’ can be the church you attend, or it can be the class itself.

October 13, 2019 (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
- Psalm 66:1-12
- 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- Luke 17:11-19

October 20, 2019 (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Jeremiah 31:27-34
- Genesis 32:22-31
- 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- Luke 18:1-8

October 27, 2019 (20th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Joel 2:23-32
- Psalm 65
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
- Luke 18:9-14

All Saints Day - November 1, 2019

- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
- Ephesians 1:11-23
- Luke 6:20-31

November 3, 2019 (21st Sunday after Pentecost)

- Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
- Luke 19:1-10

Questions? Email me at pastormandy10@gmail.com.

Looking ahead:

Between our first and our second weekend together, you will prepare a second sermon to be preached in class and do some sermon evaluation/preaching exercises. That sermon will NOT be based on any of the texts above. More details will follow when we meet together.

Looking forward to our class!