

Wesley Theological Seminary

Spring Weekend Course of Study 2022

March 11-12, April 8-9

Preaching CS-324

Instructor

Rev. Mandy Sayers

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Office Hours: By appointment (Zoom)

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 our online 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 spring. 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 minutes 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

N/A (online class).

Accommodations/Disability Support

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Associate Dean for Community Life 202-885-8614, communitylife@wesleyseminary.edu, immediately regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities.

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 Psalm 27 from March 13 OR I might choose Luke 13:1-9 from March 20. 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.

Second Sunday in Lent - March 13, 2022

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Third Sunday in Lent - March 20, 2022

- Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 27, 2022

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent - April 3, 2022

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- John 12:1-8

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!