

Wesley Theological Seminary
COS 324 Preaching
March (Asynchronously via Blackboard) & April 14 & 15, 2023 via Zoom

Instructor: Rev. Dr. David Cooke, PO Box 296, Findley Lake, NY 14736
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Description & Objectives:

This course focuses on preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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.

Required Texts:

Craddock, Fred. *On the Craft of Preaching*.
LaRue, Cleophus. *The Heart of Black Preaching*.
Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*.

Supplementary Texts:

Hamilton, Adam. *Unleashing the Word*.
Webb, Joseph. *Preaching without Notes*.

Reference Text:

Wilson, Paul Scott, Editor. *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*.

Course Outline: (Look for instructor's content on Blackboard in March 2023)

- 1.) The definition, theology, and purpose of preaching
- 2.) The calling and character of the preacher
- 3.) Mining the text
- 4.) Crafting the content
- 5.) Connecting with the congregation
- 6.) Developing weekly and annual rhythms and plans

Assignments:

Pre-Class Book Reflection Papers (3 papers submitted in one document)

Write a reflection paper, 2 to 3 pages in length, on each of the **required** texts above. What touched you? Where do you agree and disagree with the author? How would you like to incorporate what you have read into your life and role as a preacher?

*Write three reflection papers, two to three pages each in length (6-9 pages total).

Email (Include assignment name in subject) **as one attached document to the instructor** Pastor.davecooke@gmail.com **no later than April 10, 2023**. 30% of grade.

Sermon (to be preached April 14-15, 2023)

Prepare and present a fourteen-minute sermon (time may vary slightly based on number of students enrolled) to be delivered via Zoom during our weekend together. Be sure to incorporate new insights and skills learned from pre-course reading and instructor's asynchronous content into your crafting and delivering of the sermon. Students will provide feedback to one another, but the sermon will be graded by the instructor. 30% of final grade.

*E-mail (Include assignment name in subject) one page of exegetical material and sermon manuscript by April 13, to pastor.davecooke@gmail.com

Post-Class Final Paper:

Write a five-page paper on how this course has shaped your understanding and practice of preaching. Please make sure to address the following in your paper:

What is your theology of preaching?

In what ways has the class influenced how you will preach in the future?

What habits do you intend to develop and implement in the areas of Bible study, sermon preparation and planning?

***Submit final paper to the instructor pastor.davecooke@gmail.com no later than April 29, 2023.**

Class Participation:

Students are required to check Blackboard in March, and demonstrate engagement with posted material and content.

Grading

Pre-Class Reflection Papers	30%	
"In-Class" Sermon via Zoom	30%	
Post-Class Final Paper	30%	
Class Participation	10%	(Some written reflection will be required between weekends and will be included in class participation).

Evaluation

		A	93-100	A-	90-92
B+	88-89	B	83-87	B-	80-82
C+	78-79	C	73-77	C-	70-72
		F	69 or below		

Plagiarism of any type is not permitted and a grade of "F" will be given. Assignments should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point *Times New Roman* font, using one-inch margins.

If a student misses more than 20% of the total class time, a grade of F is given. No "extra credit" projects or papers are permitted.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday: 2:00 PM Class Time via Zoom **Saturday:** 9:00 AM Begin Class Time via Zoom