



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 7560 CREATIVE PRACTICES & RESOURCES FOR PREACHING, Spring 2024

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Course Description:

This seminar explores the preaching of biblical texts and theology in a way that integrates creative ideas leading congregations toward developing a missional mindset. The seminar views preaching as an endeavor not just to inform but transform the lives of listeners. It is designed to equip preachers with the resources that contribute to this goal.

The course contributes to the following degree outcomes:

1. Exhibit the ability to think theologically about ministry challenges.
2. Demonstrate effective skills in oral, written, or media performance that will increase one's communication and ministerial effectiveness appropriate to one's particular ministry context.

Additional course outcomes:

1. To understand preaching as a lifestyle and not just a Sunday morning task.
2. To address special ethical issues such as the role of character, emotions, humor, and plagiarism in the task of preaching.
3. To equip and lead a congregation through preaching to become participants in the mission of God.
4. To enable experienced preachers to reflect on and evaluate their own preaching ministry and provide resources for strengthening this task.
5. To explore creative ways sermons can engage a congregation in hearing God's word afresh that leads to transformation.

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but

not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with us.

Emails: dbland@harding.edu; secloer@harding.edu

Canvas On-line Learning System

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want. However, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

Required Textbooks:

Johnson, Patrick, *The Mission of Preaching: Equipping the Community for Faithful Witness*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015. **Due Jan 26**

Roxburgh, Alan, *The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, and Liminality*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 1997. **Due Jan 26**

Allen, O. Wesley, LaFerle, Carrie. *Preaching and the Thirty-Second Commercial: Lessons from Advertising for the Pulpit*. Louisville: WJKP, 2021. 9780664265441 **Book Review Due: Feb 16**

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. ISBN: 9780802870773. **Book Review Due: March 15**

Davis, Ellen. *Preaching the Luminous Word: Biblical Sermons and Homiletical Essays*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, ISBN: 9780802874238. Read the forward by Hauerwas and on "Not Worrying about Illustrations" by Davis. Then read the following Five Essays included in the book: 1. "Witnessing to God in the Midst of Life: Old Testament Preaching;" 2. "Holy Preaching: Ethical Interpretation and the Practical Imagination;" 3. "Surprised by Wisdom: Preaching Proverbs;" 4. "'Here I Am': Preaching Isaiah as a Book of Vocation;" 5. "Preaching in Witness to the Triune God." Obviously, you can read some of her sermons. But those are not required. **Book Review Due: March 29**

Willimon, William. *Leading With the Sermon: Preaching As Leadership*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2020. ISBN 9781506456379. **Book Review Due: April 12**

Briggs, Richard, *The Lord is My Shepherd: Psalm 23 for the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021. ISBN 9781540961853. **Discuss in Class on Thursday Feb 29.**

Total Reading Pages = 998

Prerequisites

As D.Min. students, this class assumes you already are familiar with the field of homiletics and the basic theories. This class assumes you at least have read the following books. If not, you need to familiarize yourself with them.

- Allen, O. Wesley. *Determining The Form*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780800604448.
- Long, Tom. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780664261429.

Assigned Articles/Sermons (These are all downloaded on our canvas page. The due dates are spaced out during the intensive course week.)

- Bland, Dave, "Autobiographical Preaching," *The Preacher*, January 2022, pp. 2–4. **Due Feb 23.**

- Willimon, William, "Kleptomania Homiletica," *Journal for Preachers*, Vol 42, 2019, pp. 42–44. **Due Feb 26.**
- Cosby, Michael, "Hebrews 11 and the Art of Effective Preaching," *The Covenant Quarterly*, 48 no 2, 1990, pp. 29–33. **Due Feb 27.**
- Cope, Mike, "Entrusting God with our Hatreds," In *An Honest Cry*. Eds. Bob Chisholm & Dave Bland. Abilene: Leafwood, 2010, pp.91–97. **Due Feb 28.**
- Craddock, Fred. "Why Aren't there More Exits in Church?" (Sermon Date 1980??). **Due Feb 29.**

Total Reading Pages = 19

Course Requirements

1. *Introductory Zoom Meeting* - Meet on Zoom on **January 9 at 10:00am** Central time. Everyone is required to attend. The Professor will send out an invite.
2. *Preaching and Missional Leadership Reflection* – Read Johnson and Roxburgh and write a brief reflection on the role of the preacher and the practice of preaching in the area of leadership. The reflection should be 3-4 pages and should address the following questions, by reacting to Johnson and Roxburgh. **Due Jan. 26. Offer one response to a classmate's paper. Due Jan. 31.**
 - a. What is the posture that the preacher should assume in terms of leading the congregation to participate in the mission of God?
 - b. How does the practice of preaching function as a key tool to offer missional leadership for the congregation?
 - c. What leadership skills are needed for a preacher to use their preaching as a way to bring missional transformation for the congregation?
3. *Book Reviews*
 - a. Write a review of the following four books and submit all these reviews online on our Canvas home page: Allen/LaFerle, Plantinga, Davis, and Willimon. Use the IDeA format (explained below).
 - b. Limit the review to **no more than 4 pages double-spaced**. Devote a paragraph to **Identify** (identify the author [occupation] and the context of the book [e.g., does it come in a series? Has the author written other books on the same topic? Etc.]), one page to **Describe** (i.e., summarize) and two pages to **Assess** (i.e., evaluate, dialoguing with other reviews).

- c. Plan to locate three other reviews of each book, read those reviews, and reference pertinent comments in the assess section of your review. At the end of your review, cite the reviews you've used.
- d. One place to look for reviews is in the journal *Homiletic*, a free on-line journal. Go to <http://www.homiletics.org/>.
- e. Submit all reviews online in Canvas.

4. *Article Discussions*

- a. Read the articles downloaded on our canvas page. All of these are due at various times throughout our intensive week.
- b. Respond to the statements/questions asked in the **discussion forum** just below each of the articles **and** respond to one of your classmates' posts.
- c. Due dates are assigned to each of the articles/essays.

5. *Main Preaching Project*

- a. Choose a theological theme or a biblical book or part of a biblical book to preach a series of six sermons from.
- b. Integrate a missional and transformative outcome into the series and identify a methodology you will use to assess the sermons you preach and the outcome that you seek.
- c. Choose one preaching resource to serve as a base for your paper (use at least five other relevant resources as well). **Get approval from Dave and Steve regarding the book you choose.**
- d. Though not limited to these, here are some examples of a base preaching resource you might choose.
 - Brueggemann, Walter. *Preaching from the Old Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019.
 - Brown, Sally. *Sunday's Sermon for Monday's World: Preaching to Shape Daring Witness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020.
 - Fields, David. *Preaching and the Mission of God: Faithful Witness After Christendom*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2023.
 - Davis, Ellen. *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. Oxford U Press, 2019.
 - Davis, Ellen. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. Cambridge U Press, 2007.
 - Fleer, Bland, eds. *Preaching the Sermon on the Mount: The World it Imagines*. Chalice Press, 2007.

- Japinga, Lynn. *Preaching The Women of the Old Testament: Who They Were and Why They Matter*. Louisville: WJKP, 2017. ISBN: 9780664259693
 - Pemberton, Glenn. *A Life That Is Good: The Message of Proverbs in a World Wanting Wisdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.
 - Thompson, James. *The Church in Exile: God's Counterculture in a Non-Christian World*, revised ed. Abilene: Leafwood Press, 2010. This book focuses on 1 Peter.
 - Thompson, James. *Preaching and Teaching 2 Corinthians*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2020.
 - Tirzon, Al. *Missional Preaching: Engage, Embrace, Transform*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2012.
- e. Preach at least two of the six sermons in your local church during the Spring semester.
1. If you are not preaching, then find a context (e.g., a small group at church) and preach the sermons to them.
 2. Choose 5 or 6 people from different ages and ethnicities to give you feedback using a focus group. Include the results of the feedback received in your paper. Evaluate the effectiveness of your preaching as a leadership practice.
- f. This paper should provide a brief narrative of the sermons and show how each one integrates good homiletic, missional, and theological practices. No more than 20 pages.
- g. Submit this assignment on canvas. **This assignment is due April 26.**

Grading:

1. Preaching and Missional Leadership Reflection = 100 points
2. Book Reviews, 75 pts each = 300 points
3. Discussion Forum for articles, 20 pts each = 100 points
4. Final Preaching Assignment= 150 points

Tentative Class Schedule

February 26 –March 1, 2024

(Depending on the needs of class members, we may change some topics)

Time Topic

Monday 26th

8:30-11:00	Introductions Present & Future State of Preaching The Role of Missional Preaching
1:30-3:30	Cross-Cultural Obstacles to Preaching
4:00–5:00	D. Min. Methodology/Preaching Project

Tuesday 27th

8:30–11:00	Preaching as Leading Churches in Mission
1:30– 5:00	The Role of Character in Preaching

Wednesday 28th

8:30–11:00	A Brief Rehearsal of Sermonic Forms Special Issues in Preaching: Self-disclosure, emotions, humor
1:30–5:00	Preaching Select Texts (8th Century Prophets)

Thursday 29th

8:30–11:00 **Preaching Select Texts (Psalms)**

1:30–5:00 **Preaching Select Texts (Wisdom Literature)**

Friday March 1st

8:30–11:00 **Preaching Select Texts (Ezekiel)**

1:30–5:00 **Field Trip/Coaching/Projects**

Select Bibliography for DMin Students
Resources with which you should be familiar

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

Charles Campbell. *Preaching Jesus: New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2001.

Lischer, Richard. "The Limits of Story." *Interpretation* 38 (January 1984): 26-38.

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: WJKP, 2016.

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.

Norrington, David C. *To Preach or Not to Preach: The Church's Urgent Question*. Ekklesia Press, 1996 (Republished 2015).

Thompson, James. *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Willimon, William H. *The Intrusive Word: Preaching to the Unbaptized*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Willimon, William H. *Peculiar Speech: Preaching to the Baptized*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Practice of Preaching, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.