Course Description and Outcomes

This course focuses on preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments. 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 Textbooks


Suggested Readings (The COS office will provide access to these)

- Craddock, Fred. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*.
- Self, William L. *Surviving the Stained Glass Jungle*.

Suggested Readings

- Kalas, Ellsworth J. *Preaching From The Soul*.
- Willimon, Will. *Proclamation and Theology*.
- Fry-Brown, Theresa. *Delivering the Sermon*.
A Note about the Hybrid Format
This course is offered in a hybrid format. That means that 15 of the 20 contact hours for class will be in person and the remaining 5 contact hours will be online. There are three major phases in the class: pre-class, in-class, and post-class.

- The PRE-CLASS PHASE is meant to set the foundation for our time together in person. In advance of class, students will view the online video lectures, complete short writing responses, and read selections from required textbooks when applicable.
  
  PLEASE NOTE: Amy Walker will be sending out a link to the online videos to everyone who registers for the class.

- The IN-CLASS PHASE will be devoted to digging into the subject through lecture and discussion.

- The POST-CLASS PHASE will consist of work that occurs after you leave class and is meant to help wrap up the lectures, the discussions, and the readings.
Pre-Class Assignments
(email all pre-class assignments to amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu no later than January 23, 2017)

1) Read Tom Long’s *The Witness of Preaching* and write a three-page summary of the most helpful chapter to you.

2) Read O. Wesley Allen’s *Determining the Form* and write a three-page summary of the most helpful chapter to you.

3) Describe the last time you heard and/or watched your last sermon. What did you like best? What do you feel you need to improve? *(no more than two pages)*

4) Prepare a sermon manuscript on a text of your choice to be preached in class *(no more than 20 minutes; a minimum of six pages, double-spaced)*.

5) Watch five videos online and respond to the following questions.

   **Video #1: The Theology of Preaching – Preaching as Event**
   1. Describe a time when you experienced a sermon as a sacramental event. Describe the experience and why it was meaningful to you. *(no more than one page)*
   2. In what ways would you enhance your preparation and delivery of sermons so that they can be used by God as sacramental events? *(no more than one page)*

   **Video #2: Getting to the Point and Engaging the Listener**
   1. Reflect on a time when “the bottom of a scripture text got to the bottom of you.” Describe your experience. How did the Holy Spirit help you? *(no more than one page)*
   2. Think of your last five sermons. Express the message of each of those sermons in one sentence. *(your answer should be no more than five sentences)*

   **Video #3: Forming the Sermon – A Five-Step Method for Preparing Effective Sermons**
   1. In one paragraph describe the way you typically structure your sermons. *(no more than one paragraph)*
   2. How often do you move from “explaining to proclaiming” in your sermons? What does that mean to you? *(no more than one paragraph)*

   **Video #4: How To Make Your Sermons Memorable**
   1. Reflect on the six elements of memorable sermons and give examples of how you have used each one in past sermons *(no more than two pages)*

   **Video #5: Preparation and Delivery**
   1. Do you use a script or outline when you preach? Why does your approach work best for you? *(no more than one paragraph)*
   2. After viewing the video, what aspect of your delivery do you feel needs improvement? How will you work to improve it? *(no more than two pages)*
Post-Class Assignment *(mail DVD to Charley Reeb no later than February 18, 2017)*

Make changes to the sermon you delivered in class based on content and feedback from class. Videotape yourself delivering the new revised sermon and burn it to a DVD. Mail your new manuscript and the DVD to:

Rev. Dr. Charley Reeb  
Pasadena Community Church  
227 70th St. S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

**Grading**

Final grades will be determined in the following way:

- 50% Pre-Class Assignments (includes video responses)
- 20% In-Class Participation
- 20% In-Class sermon delivery
- 10% Post-Class sermon delivery and rewrite

**COS Grading Scale**

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Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and on 8.5 x 11” paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.
- All papers must include a page number and the student’s last name in the header or footer.
- Note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section or page.
- All papers must be properly cited. Please use MLA formatting. This is the best website for learning more about MLA format: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/

Inclusive Language Covenant

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to God’s revelation and in participation with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.
Directions to Email Pre-Class Assignments

SEND TO – Email your pre-class assignments to: amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu

- You are encouraged to email the instructor with questions about the assignments, but do not email your pre-class assignment to them.

DEADLINE – Email must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on January 23, 2016.
Pre-class work received after the deadline will be subject to the late penalty schedule below:

- Pre-class work received between January 24-30 will receive a one-letter grade deduction.
- Pre-class work received between January 31-February 3 will receive a two-letter grade deduction.
- Students who have not turned in pre-class work by February 3 will be dropped from the class.

EMAIL SUBJECT LINE – The subject of your email should be “Pre-Class Work – FL COS 324”

THE EMAIL – Your full name, phone number, and email address should be included at the beginning of your email. Pre-class work must be sent as an attachment and not in the body of the email.

a. Only Microsoft Word will be accepted.

b. All assignments for each course must be in one document. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments; emails sent with multiple documents will not be accepted.

PLAGIARISM – The “Plagiarism Policy” and “Plagiarism Defined” paragraphs below (in red) must be included in the body of your email, not within your pre-class work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature (which is a requirement). If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted.

Plagiarism Policy - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.

Plagiarism Defined: “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 72 hours of submitting your pre-class work.