Perkins Course of Study School
324 Preaching

Pre-class Assignment

Instructor:
O. Wesley (Wes) Allen, Jr.
Lois Craddock Professor of Homiletics
214-768-2537 (Office)
wesleya@smu.edu

Course Objectives:
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 settings (or equivalent).

Required Texts:

1. For use in the Pre-class assignment:
    a. Paul Scott Wilson, ed., *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*
    (If you do not wish to purchase the NIHP, you can access it online through the Bridwell catalog HERE. Once in Ministry Matters, click on the "Research Library" tab in the top right corner of the webpage. Then in the list that appears, click on "Sermons" and then the sub tab of "Christian" and you will see the Handbook listed. Once in the eBook, there is a little Table of Contents icon next to the title at the top of the page (). Click on it to navigate to each assigned article.)
2. For use in the in-person class sessions:
    a. Marvin A. McMickle, *Shaping the Claim: Moving from Text to Sermon*
    b. O. Wesley Allen, Jr., *Determining the Form*

Pre-Class Assignments:

1. Theology of Preaching
    a. Read the following essays from the *New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*:
        i. David M. Greenhaw, "Call," 223-24
        ii. Thomas G. Long, "Authority (Theology)," 440–44
        iii. David J. Lose, "Sermon as Proclamation," 414–16
        iv. Charles C. Campbell, "Ethics of Preaching," 131-33
    b. Write a one-page theological essay describing your understanding of the purpose of preaching. Draw on and cite the readings in your essay.

2. From Text to Sermon
    a. Read the following essays from the *New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*:
        i. Interpreting the Text
            1. David A. Davis, "Sermon Research," 246-47
            2. Stephen Farris, "Choosing and Delimiting the Text," 1-3
            3. Stephen Farris, "Hermeneutics," 31–37
            4. Thomas G. Long, "Exegesis," 17–24
            5. Barbara E. Reid, "Synoptic Gospels," 113.
        ii. Interpreting the Preaching Context
            1. Stephen Farris, "Exegesis of the Congregation, Denomination," 266–67
            2. Stephen Farris, "Exegesis of Self," 267–69
            3. Gary V. Simpson, "Gender, Race, and Ethnicity," 269–72
        iii. Developing the Sermon
            1. Ronald J. Allen, "Seeking to Be Heard," 369–71
            2. Paul Scott Wilson, "Theme Sentence," 207–09
            3. Hanry J. Langknecht, "Introductions," 392–94
            4. James R. Nieman, "Theology in the Sermon," 489–93
            5. Michael Duduit, "Illustrations and Stories," 189–91
            6. Jerry Carter, "Conclusions," 372
        iv. Sermon Delivery/Embodiment
            1. Richard F. Ward, "Oral/Aural Communication," 356–58
            2. Jana Childer, "Use of Pulpit," 284
    b. Write a four-page essay describing a process for preparing and delivering sermons drawn from the readings but adapted to your own understanding of the purpose of preaching. Cite the readings in your essay.

Grades

1. Preaching in Class 50%
2. Pre-class assignments 25%
3. Class participation 25%

Pre-class Assignments Policy:

Pre-class assignments are due February 22,2027 and are to be submitted via Canvas. Late submissions will result in a lowering of the student's grade. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund.