

# **Introduction to Preaching**

MF4101

Fall 2011

The purpose of this class will be to equip each student to apply sound techniques for the preparation and delivery of the sermon, recognize the significance of biblically based sermons in varying cultural contexts, and cultivate an awareness of how that sermon is received by those who listen.

## **Dr. James K. Abernathy, Instructor**

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## **Goals for the Course**

1. Students will focus on basic skills of communication, learning and/or relearning the significance of their voice (speech patterns, timing, inflection, etc.) in the context of the sermon.
2. Students will learn the value of preaching biblical truth in the context of an ever-changing culture, considering the vitality of various factors that shape both the preacher's and the hearer's approach to the sermon.
3. Students will prepare and deliver two sermons, the first assigned for a particular context and limited time frame, and the second in the context of a regular worship service.
4. Students will develop a sense of community within the class that will empower discussion and encourage personal growth.

## **Required Texts:**

Quicke, Michael J. *360 Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*, Baker Academic, 2003.

Fry Brown, Teresa L. *Delivering the Sermon*, Fortress Press, 2008.

McMickle, Marvin A. *Shaping the Claim*, Fortress Press, 2008.

## **Selected Bibliography:**

Allen, Ronald J., *Thinking Theologically*, Fortress Press, 2008.

Brown Taylor, Barbara, *The Preaching Life*, Cowley Publications, 1993.

Brueggemann, Walter, *Finally Comes the Poet*, Fortress Press, 1989.

Claypool, John, *The Preaching Event*, Word Books, 1980.

Craddock, Fred, *Preaching*, Abingdon Press, 1985.

Ferlo, Roger, *Sensing God: Reading Scripture With All Our Senses*, Cowley Publications, 2002.

- Jones, Kirk Byron, *The Jazz of Preaching: How to Preach With Great Freedom and Joy*, Abingdon Press, 2004.
- Long, Thomas G., *The Witness of Preaching*, Second Edition, Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.
- Mulligan, Mary Alice, Turner-Sharazz, Dianne, Otani Wilhelm, Dawn, Allen, Ronald J., *Believing in Preaching: What Listeners Hear in Sermons*, Chalice Press, 2005.
- Mulligan, Mary Alice, Allen, Ronald J., *Make the Word Come Alive: Lessons From Laity*, Chalice Press, 2005.
- Murray Elkins, Heather, *Worshipping Women: Re-forming God's People for Praise*, Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Nieman, James R., *Knowing the Context*, Fortress Press, 2008.
- Shea, John, *Gospel Light: Jesus Stories for Spiritual Consciousness*, Crossroads, 1998.
- Troeger, Thomas, *Imagining a Sermon*, Abingdon Press, 1990.

**Evaluation:**

Test: 25%  
 Sermons: 50%  
 Class Participation: 25%

**Class Syllabus**

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|--------------|--|
| August 25    | Introduction of Class Participants, Introduction of Course,<br>Discussion: "The Foolishness of Preaching"<br>Quicke, Chapter 1; Brown, Chapter 1 |
| September 1  | Discussion: "Inculturating the Word"<br>Brown, Chapters 1-2; Quicke, Chapter 2, 6  |
| September 8  | Discussion: "Making a Connection...Connecting the Pieces"<br>Quicke, Chapters 3-4; Brown, Chapters 3-4   |
| September 15 | Discussion: "What, and So What...Vital Sermon Questions"<br>McMickle, Chapters 1-2   |
| September 22 | Discussion: "A Final Question...Now What?"<br>McMickel, Chapter 3<br>Discussion: "Embodying the Word"<br>Brown, Chapter 5                        |
| September 29 | Discussion: "More Than Words...Preaching as Animation"<br>Brown, Chapters 5-6; Quicke, Chapter 5   |

October 6	Preaching Presentation #1: "Five Minutes or Less...Preacher on the Clock". (Each student will present a sermon no longer than five minutes from an assigned text and particular context. A copy of the sermon will be presented to the professor at the beginning of class.)
October 13	Reading Days
October 20	"Five Minutes or Less..." continued (if necessary.) Discussion: "The Preaching Swim: Part One" Quicke, Chapters 7-9
October 27	Discussion: "The Preaching Swim: Part Two" Quicke, Chapters 10-12
November 3	Discussion: "Imaginative Preaching...Preaching as More Than Words" Supplemental Materials Provided
November 10	Preaching Presentation #2: (Each student will present a sermon, no less than ten minutes, no more than fifteen minutes in length from an assigned text, set in the context of the local church. A copy of the sermon will be presented to the professor at the beginning of class.)
November 17	Preaching Presentation #2...Continued
November 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 1	Video Analysis: Class will view, then evaluate the sermons of four "TV Preachers", considering style, content, and context in each presentation.
December 8	Completion of Video Analysis; Final Exam Review
December 15	Final Exam