

**COS 214 - Practice of Preaching**  
**Course Description and Objectives**  
**March 7 – 8 and April 11 – 12, 2014**  
**Morningside College**  
**Instructor: Rev. David Swinton D.Min.**

***COS 214—Practice of Preaching***

This course focuses on preaching the gospel. Central concerns are the utilization of biblical exegesis, sermon preparation and delivery, and evaluation of the pastor's preaching.

Objectives:

1. Utilization of biblical exegesis for preaching with reference to the lectionary
2. Awareness of and skills for understanding the context for preaching (congregation and community)
3. Evaluation of sermons for biblical authenticity, theological soundness, and contemporary relevance
4. Appropriation of insights gained from the evaluation of the student's sermons
5. Analytical participation in the evaluation of the sermons of classmates
6. Development of skills in the ordering and delivery of a sermon

Text List:

Required:

- 1) Fred B. Craddock – *Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 1990; ISBN 0687336481)
- 2) Barbara Brown Taylor – *Preaching Life* (Cowley Publications, 1993; ISBN 156101074X)
- 3) Henry H. Mitchell - *Celebration and Experience in Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 1990; ISBN 0687047447)

Supplementary (Optional, these may be referenced in class):

- 1) Andy Langford - *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (Abingdon Press, 1992; ISBN 0687035724)
- 2) Thomas G. Long – *The Witness of Preaching, Second Edition* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2005; ISBN 0664229433)
- 3) Brant D. Baker, editor - *The Abingdon Children's Sermon Library* (Abingdon Press, 2006; ISBN 0687497302)
- 4) Kirk Byron Jones, editor – *The Abingdon African American Preaching Library* (Abingdon Press, 2006; ISBN 0687333059)
- 5) Justo González, editor – *Púlpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 2005; ISBN 068708850X)

Assignments: All writing assignments should be double spaced, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. Papers that are more than a page too long will be given lower, not higher, grades. In "summary" papers you are to demonstrate your understanding of the assigned material. In "reflection" papers you are to demonstrate your understanding of the material, as well as to interact with the substance of the assigned reading, *reflecting* on the appropriateness and value of its insights and information.

For March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (**All written assignments for this session are due February 7<sup>th</sup>.**)

- Read all three required texts.
- Write a **3-5 page paper reflecting** on your own homiletical journey and preaching style. List and describe the preachers, preaching tradition(s), books, and models of biblical interpretation that have formed you as a preacher.
- Write no more than a **one page description** of your local setting (context of your congregation). Include these things: number of members, urban/rural setting/ socio-economic/racial makeup, learning styles, strengths and needs, overview etc.
- Write a **two page summary** of the sixth chapter of Fred Craddock's book, *Preaching*, highlighting his main points.
- Write a **two page reflection** on Part One of *The Preaching Life* by Brown Taylor
- Write a **two page summary** of the Appendix of Henry Mitchell's *Celebration & Experience in Preaching*. Please demonstrate an understanding of the roles of the cognitive, emotive, and intuitive sectors of consciousness.
- Each student will be assigned one or two chapters from the assigned texts, about which you will be expected to lead the class in a discussion on the important highlights of the chapters. You should show that you have read and comprehended the material and be ready to field questions. You are free to present in whichever format is comfortable. As part of your presentation you should provide a **1-page handout** covering your chapter(s).

For April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

- Write a **2-3 page personal reflection** on Chapters 9 and 10 in Craddock's *Preaching*. (**Due March 28<sup>th</sup>.**)
- Read and be ready to discuss Dr. Swinton's article on Funeral Sermons. (This article will be distributed in the first session of class.)
- Complete a **worksheet** for your sermon. Worksheet will be provided at first session. (**Due at beginning of second session.**)
- Prepare and preach a **10 to 12 minute sermon** using lessons learned from class and reading assignments. (Time may be reduced or increased based on the number of students.). The sermon should be about 10 minutes in length, but not exceeding 12 minutes. **You are required to hand in a manuscript for the sermon on the day it is preached.** When you preach you are free to use your manuscript, an outline, notes, or no notes.
- Participate in constructive evaluation of the sermons preached by other students.
- Following your preaching assignment. Please write a **3-5 page paper** indicating *how you incorporated ideas from the class, the readings, feedback, and new insights into your sermon and how these ideas and practices may affect your future sermons*. This is an evaluation only in the sense that you are highlighting what has been most useful. (**Due April 25<sup>th</sup>.**)

#### Contact Information

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#### Grading

|                                                              |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Writing Assignments                                          | 40% |
| Class Participation showing knowledge of reading assignments | 20% |
| Sermon Manuscript and Preaching                              | 30% |
| Reflection Paper following sermon                            | 10% |