

Starr King School for the Ministry
Advanced Thematic Preaching
3 Credits, Spring, 2018

Instructor: Rev. Sofia Betancourt
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DRAFT Syllabus

Course Description:

This is an advanced hybrid course in thematic preaching intended for students with preaching experience who seek to further develop their own unique preaching presence and voice. Topics will focus on thematic development, use of poetic voice, effective sermon construction, pulpit presence, and preaching through the liturgical year. This course utilizes a high level of peer collaboration and review. All religious traditions are welcome. Some of our students (*a maximum of four*) will be joining us from offsite. If you plan to take this course as a low resident student, you need to have access to video recording equipment (the quality from a laptop is sufficient) in order to present your sermons.

Prerequisites:

- 1) an introductory level homiletics course or extensive preaching experience with permission of the instructor, and**
- 2) Educating to Counter Oppressions intensive or equivalent.**

Required Texts:

Otis Moss, III, *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair* (Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2015).

List Price: \$18.00, also available as an ebook \$9.99

Sondra B. Wilobee, *The Write Stuff: Crafting Sermons that Capture and Convince* (Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

List Price: \$18.00, also available as an ebook \$9.99

Kirk Byron Jones, *The Jazz of Preaching: How to Preach with Great Freedom and Joy* (Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2004).

List Price: \$18.99, also available as an ebook \$18.04

Further class materials will be available on moodle.

Learning Objectives:

Students are expected to:

- Deepen their working knowledge of non-lectionary thematic preaching in a congregational setting;
- Fully participate in workshop style exercises, peer collaboration, and review;
- Model strategies for “preaching to every pew”; and
- Work on developing their own unique identity and voice as preachers.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to:

- Prepare two sermons during the course of the semester, one completely new text and one revision of an already delivered sermon;
- Complete all readings in a timely manner and come prepared to participate in thoughtful discussion; and
- Bring a compassionate and constructive voice to peer review and feedback.

Grading:

Grading for this course will be based on:

- Timely submission of assignments;
- Thoughtful class participation; and
- Your two sermons.

Sermon Writing and Delivery:

Each student must submit manuscripts for one original sermon and one already preached sermon, on themes of your choosing, of 18-20 minutes in length. *Along with each manuscript, students should include the full text of their readings and at least two hymns to complement the sermon.*

One sermon must be a new and original composition, not one that you have already preached or that you have written for another class.

One sermon must be a newly edited version of one that you have already delivered outside of the classroom. For this sermon, be sure to submit both the original and newly edited versions. Identify an aspect of the sermon that you want to work on and improve.

Sermons can be on any theme of your choosing. You will have the opportunity to deliver both of your sermons to your classmates.