

**DRAFT**  
**Starr King School for the Ministry**  
**Introduction to Preaching in a Cross Cultural Context**

Instructor: Rev. Sofia Betancourt  
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January 8-12, 2018

**Course Description:**

This January preaching intensive explores advanced work in counter oppressive ministry through worship and the arts. Hands on learning will combine the daily sharing and peer review of brief homilies with exercises aimed at identifying your authentic preaching voice. Each student will also deliver a full-length sermon in class. Questions of how to make our worship services more relevant in today's culturally shifting world will be explored through thea/ological study of homiletics through a libratory lens and an engagement with issues of cultural appropriation and misappropriation in Unitarian Universalist liturgical practice. Course work in basic homiletics is not required for this class. Students from all traditions are welcome. **Advanced reading and sermon preparation are required.**

**To be done IN ADVANCE of the course:**

- Read the following texts in their entirety (see required texts below):
  1. *Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists*
  2. *Thematic Preaching: An Introduction*
- Submit two 20-minute sermons to the instructor, on subjects of your choosing, via email ([sbetancourt@sksm.edu](mailto:sbetancourt@sksm.edu)) in MS word or PDF format **no later than DEC 30th, 2017 at 11:59pm**. Note that 100 words per minute is a rough benchmark. *Please see the notes on sermon writing below well in advance of submission.*

**Required Texts:**

*Please note that there is one additional text for the course that we will be reading during class rather than in advance.*

Smith, Christine Marie, *Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock 2008).  
ISBN: 978-1606081426  
List Price: \$22.00

Arnason, Wayne, and Rolenz, Kathleen, *Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists* (Boston: Skinner House, 2008).

List Price: \$16.00

[Available at the UUA Bookstore online, or as an ebook (\$7.99)]

[on the new Ministerial Fellowship Committee reading list]

Rzepka, Jane and Sawyer, Ken, *Thematic Preaching: An Introduction* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2001).

ISBN: 0827236530

List Price: \$30.99

[on the new Ministerial Fellowship Committee reading list]

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students are expected to:

- Gain a working knowledge of non-lectionary thematic preaching in a congregational setting;
- Acquire a basic understanding of cross cultural impacts on worship and the liturgical arts;
- Begin to build a toolkit of strategies for “preaching to every pew”; and
- Work on developing their own unique identity and voice as preachers.

### **Requirements:**

Students are required to:

- Complete all advanced course readings before the first day of class, and be prepared to participate in thoughtful discussion;
- Complete brief readings and the preparation of brief homilies during the intensive week;
- Bring a compassionate and constructive voice to peer review and feedback; and
- Attend for the entire week of the intensive.
- Please contact the instructor regarding accessibility, including any special needs or considerations.

**Sermon Writing and Delivery:** Advanced texts due **no later than DECEMBER 30th, 2017 at 11:59 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Each student must write manuscripts for **two original sermons**, on the theme of your choosing, of 18-20 minutes in length. A starting benchmark is 100 words per

minute. Remember that no two preachers are alike. Practice your sermon aloud, and *time yourself*. Along with each manuscript, students should include the full text of their readings and at least two hymns to complement the sermon. You may not use sermons for this class that you have already preached or that you have written for another class.

Sermons can be on any theme of your choosing. You will have the opportunity to revise one of your sermons for delivery to your classmates. On the day that you are scheduled to preach, bring enough copies of your final manuscript to share with each student and the instructor.

### **Grading:**

Grading for this course will be based on:

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

### **Each day our time will focus on aspects of four critical concerns:**

- Sermon Writing
- Transformative Worship
- Cross Cultural Engagement
- Finding Voice

**Mid-week Reading Assignments:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and assigned readings to achieve course objectives.

### **Tuesday, January 9**

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 1 – A Perspective of the Disabled

Read *Preaching to Every Pew* – The Frame of Class (will be distributed in class)

### **Wednesday, January 10**

Read any two chapters from 2-6 in *Preaching Justice*

Choose two cultures that you are least familiar with

### **Thursday, January 11**

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 7 – A Jewish Perspective  
Review Section on Misappropriation and Honoring World's Cultures in *Worship that Works*

**Friday, January 12**

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 8 – A Lesbian Perspective  
Review Inviting and Including All Generations in *Worship that Works*, and Preaching When Children Are Present in *Thematic Preaching*