

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

Fireside Room, Thursdays 2:10pm – 5:00pm

Fall, 2018

Instructor: Rev. Sofia Betancourt

[sbetancourt@sksm.edu](mailto:sbetancourt@sksm.edu)

**Course Description:**

This non-lectionary, thematic preaching course embraces counter oppressive ministry through worship and the arts. Hands on learning will combine the sharing and peer review of brief homilies with exercises aimed at identifying your authentic preaching voice. Each student will also deliver two full-length sermons 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.

**Required Texts:**

Smith, Christine Marie, *Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock 2008).

ISBN: 978-1606081426

List Price: \$20.00

Arnason, Wayne, and Rolenz, Kathleen, *Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Boston: Skinner House, 2017).

List Price: \$18.00

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE PURCHASE THE SECOND EDITION**

[Available at the UUA Bookstore online, or as an ebook (\$9.99)]

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

ISBN: 0827236530

List Price: \$28.99

**Course 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.

### **Course Outcomes:**

Students are expected to:

- Attain proficiency in writing and delivering sermons;
- Understand the development of their own preaching voice; and
- Prioritize intersectional justice in their writing.

### **Requirements:**

Students are required to:

- Complete all course readings as assigned, and be prepared to participate in thoughtful discussion;
- Complete brief homilies and two original full length sermons over the course of the semester; and
- Bring a compassionate and constructive voice to peer review and feedback.

### **Sermon Writing and Delivery:**

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. **Please submit your working draft to the instructor via email on the Sunday before you are scheduled to preach.**

**Deadline: 11:59pm SUNDAY before you preach.**

### **Reading Assignments:**

#### **Week One:**

None, Introduction to Course

**Week Two:**

*Worship That Works*, Visions and Challenges section

**Week Three:**

*Worship That Works*, Qualities of Transformative Worship section

**Week Four:**

*Worship That Works*, Practical Details section and Conclusion

**Week Five:**

*Thematic Preaching*, “Blue Ducks” through “Trusting Instant Inspiration”

*Thematic Preaching*, “Sermons That Help the Healing” through “Sermons That Tend the Institution”

**Week Six:**

*Thematic Preaching*, “Getting Started” through “More Than a Message”

*Thematic Preaching*, “Sermons That Engage with the Larger World” through “Sermons That Build the Loving Community”

**Week Seven:**

*Thematic Preaching*, “The Hour Draws Nigh” through “Preaching As a Ministry”

*Thematic Preaching*, “Sermons That Inspire” through “Sermons That Explain a Particular Religious Identity”

**Week Eight: READING WEEK, NO CLASS**

**Week Nine:**

*Thematic Preaching*, “Issues in Preaching” through “Am I a Performer?”

*Thematic Preaching*, “Sermons That Provide Intellectual Stimulation” through “Sermons That Startle, Awaken, or Amuse”

**Week Ten:**

*Preaching Justice*, Chp 1 and 2

**Week Eleven:**

Handout on Class Diversity and Preaching

*Preaching Justice*, Chp 3 and 4

**Week Twelve:**

*Preaching Justice*, Chp 4 and 5

**Week Thirteen:**

*Preaching Justice*, Chp 6 and 7

**Week Fourteen:**

*Preaching Justice*, Chp 8 and Conclusion

**Grading:**

Grading for this course will be based on:

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