

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

Instructor: Rev. Sofía Betancourt, Ph.D.

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January 11-15, 2020

January 19-21, 2020

10am – 2pm PST, plus two hours on your own daily

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 record two full length sermons for feedback – one text based, and one extemporaneous. See below for expectations. 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. *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages*
 3. *The Write Stuff: Crafting Sermons That Capture and Convince*
- Submit one 20-minute sermon text to the instructor, on a subject of your choosing, via email (sbetancourt@sksm.edu) in MS word **no later than DEC 30th, 2020 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.*
- Once you receive feedback from the instructor on your sermon text, you will video record your updated sermon and email a link to the instructor **no later than January 9th, 2020** for inclusion on the class moodle. *Please see notes on video submission 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.

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

List Price: \$18.00

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

[on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee reading list]

McFee, Marsha, *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages* (Trukee, CA: Trokay Press, 2016)

ISBN: 0997497807

List Price: \$29.99

Ebook: \$11.49

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

ISBN: 978-1606081426

List Price: \$22.00

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

ISBN: 0664232817

List Price: \$20.00

Ebook: \$14.00

Highly Recommended Text:

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

ISBN: 0827236530

List Price: \$30.99

[on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee reading list]

Beloveds, this is usually a required book for this class to be read in advance of the course. Sadly, it is unavailable on almost every platform I have searched including the UUA bookstore. If you have access to a hard copy, I would highly recommend reading it.

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 advance course readings before the first day of class, and be prepared to participate in thoughtful discussion;
- Complete brief readings and watch video recorded sermons during the eight intensive days;
- Write and record an extemporaneous sermon over the course of the intensive;
- Bring a compassionate and constructive voice to peer review and feedback; and
- Attend for the entire eight days 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, 2020 at 11:59 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Each student must write in advance: a manuscript for **one original sermon**, 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, please include the full text of your reading(s). **You may not use sermons for this class that you have already preached or that you have written for another class.**

During the first week of class, you will work on an outline for **one original extemporaneous homily** (about 10-12 minutes). I am telling you now in case you would benefit from more advance notice. **Please note the intention of doing this work during class is to build on the discussions we have together.**

Sermons can be on any theme of your choosing.

Sermon Video Submission:

After you have received feedback on your sermon draft, please make any edits and record yourself preaching your sermon. Please email the instructor a link to your sermon video **by January 9, at 11:59 pm.** There are NO EXTENTIONS. **Use something like icloud,**

or dropbox, or vimeo to house your video and email only the link to the video. We cannot upload large files to moodle for distribution.

Grading:

Grading for this course will be based on:

- Timely submission of assignments;
- Thoughtful class participation; and
- Your sermon and extemporaneous homily.

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

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

Asynchronous Course Assignments:

Our class will meet by zoom from 10am-1pm PST each day of the intensive. You will then be expected to complete another two hours of work on your own time for each class day. The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and assigned readings to achieve course objectives.

Monday, January 11

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 1 – A Perspective of the Disabled
Read *10 Questions About Why Ableist Language Matters* (on moodle)
Watch Three sermons and complete feedback sheets

Tuesday, January 12

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 2 – A Native American Perspective
Watch Three sermons and complete feedback sheets

Wednesday, January 13

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 3 – An African American Woman's Perspective
Read *Cornrows, Kwanzaa and Confusion* (on moodle)
Watch Three sermons and complete feedback sheets

Thursday, January 14

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 4 – A Filipino Perspective
Watch Two sermons and complete feedback sheets

Friday, January 15th

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 5 – A Hispanic Perspective

Complete work on Extemporaneous Homily Outline, **Due 11:59pm TODAY**

Tuesday, January 19th

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 6 – A Korean American Perspective

Wednesday, January 20th

Preaching Justice, Chapter 7 – A Jewish Perspective

Thursday, January 21st

Read *Preaching Justice*, Chapter 8 – A Lesbian Perspective