Northern Seminary

MN 382 Principles and Practice of Preaching
Dr. Harry Parker
Fall 2014
Mondays, 7:00 – 9:40 p.m.
hparker@faculty.seminary.edu

Office Hours and Phone
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: Church 708-848-4070
Home 708-452-3899
E-mail parkerabc33@gmail.com

Course Overview
This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to preaching. It will be based on Michael Quicke’s text, *360 Degrees of Preaching*. Students will explore the preacher as a person, engaging the text, interpreting the text, designing a sermon, imagistic language, eventful gestures, the role of celebration and basic sermon models. Students will also have three lab opportunities to experiment with the reading of scripture, storytelling and preaching.

Objectives
In this course the student will do the following:
1. Gain an understanding of the importance of the preacher as a person
2. Learn techniques of engaging the text in order to discover a word to be preached
3. Learn the process of sermon preparation using the “Preaching Swim” and other models
4. Develop skills in expository preaching
5. Develop skills using concrete, imagistic language
6. Develop skills using pictorial, rather than emphatic gestures
7. Develop skills in the public reading of scripture
8. Understand the role of Celebration in preaching
9. Develop skills as a preacher

Educational Methodology
The class will include lectures, discussion, videos, preaching and peer feedback.

Required Reading


Additional Resource

ISBN 0-8010-2367-X. 164 pages. $20.00

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. The content and group process are too important to miss any session.

2. Completion of required readings and submission of book reflection papers (Paper guidelines will be given in class.)

3. Read one passage of scripture in lab setting.

4. Tell one story using pictorial gestures in lab setting.

5. Preach one sermon in lab setting.

6. View four sermons of four different preachers and write four one page critiques. (Preachers can be live, television, you tube, or video. Guidelines will be given in class.)

7. Write one five page reflection paper on what you have learned and how you plan to improve your preaching. (Guidelines will be given in class).

8. Wherever possible, students are encouraged to attend chapel services to develop listening skills

Tentative Course Schedule

September 22
The Person of the Preacher
Engaging the Text (Model 1)

September 29
Engaging the Text (Model 2 & 3)
Introducing “The Preaching Swim”
The Public Reading of Scripture

October 6
Finding Something to Say
The Preaching Swim: Interpreting the Text
Lab: Scripture Reading

*LaRue Reflection Paper Due*
October 13
  The Preaching Swim: Designing the Sermon
  Lab: Scripture Reading

October 20
  Expository Preaching: An Introduction
  Lab: Storytelling
  *Quicke Reflection Paper Due*

October 27
  Expository Preaching: Beginnings, Endings and Illustrations
  Lab: Storytelling

November 3
  Celebration
  Nuts and Bolts
  Lab: Storytelling
  *Galli Reflection Paper Due*

November 10
  Lab: Preaching

November 17
  Lab: Preaching
  *Northcutt Reflection Paper Due*

December 1
  Lab: Preaching
  *Reflection Paper and Preacher Critiques Due*

**Grading**

1. Book Reflection Papers  40 Points (10 points each)
2. Scripture Reading      2.5 Points
3. Storytelling           2.5 Points
4. Preacher Critiques     10 Points (2.5 points each)
5. Sermon                 30 Points
6. Reflection Paper       15 Points

**Grading Scale**

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POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact
ihelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal
email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best
work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate
in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important.
Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance
expectations and relationships in the classroom.

Diploma/Certificate Student Course Requirements
The amount of work required of Diploma/Certificate students will be at the discretion of the professor.
Students will be responsible for contacting the professor about what assignments are required.

Class Attendance Policy
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of
class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students
are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance
expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

Class Tardiness Policy
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected
that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

Late Work Policy
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a
“Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form
must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade
reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work
completed by the last day of the term.

Turabian Format
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing
proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog
for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Electronic Format
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document
format (.doc, .docx).

Technology Use in the Classroom
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using
cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.
Course Evaluation in Moodle
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at http://moodle.seminary.edu in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.