Northern Seminary  
UR 303  URBAN MINISTRY: CREATIVE PREACHING  
Spring 2015  
Wednesdays 4:00-6:40 p.m. at Lawndale Community Church  
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Course Description
This course introduces the skill set and techniques of creative preaching in an urban setting that encourages positive interaction between pastor and parishioners. Each class member will gain practical as well as theological knowledge of creative preaching.

Course Objectives
1. Demonstrate the ability to bridge God’s kingdom and urban society in the content of their preaching.
2. Learn and develop preaching methods that employ the arts, current events, and urban culture in the communication of God’s word.
3. Demonstrate an ability to employ a variety of preaching styles that will reach the varying membership of an urban congregation.
4. Utilize contemporary modes of communication for traditional texts of scripture in preaching.
5. Understand the urban setting and its culture so as to better preach in context.
6. Become comfortable experimenting with the communication of the Bible.

Course Requirements – Master’s Students
1. Write a one page reflection paper on each book read for this class. 10%
2. Listen to five different sermons in person and critique the creativeness of each of them. Write a two page reflection for each of the five. 20%
3. Preach two seven minute sermons in class using creative methods. 20%
4. Write a three page paper detailing the creativeness of Gardner Taylor’s sermons. Due 5/13/15. 10%
5. Final Exam: A passage of scripture will be given to students to outline and define the theme of this passage. Outline a sermon with two – five points. Produce a creative preaching illustration. This will be done with only a Bible and notebook. 20%
6. Class discussion and participation. 20%
7. NOTE: Students whose primary culture has not been urban will be required to meet with an urban pastor for a minimum of 20 hours during the quarter to discuss the issues raised during the course and to share in meaningful cross cultural dialogue.
Diploma/Certificate Students Requirements
Certificate students will only read books with ***

Grading Scale

A = 100-95  A- = 94-90
B+ = 89-87  B = 86-83
B- = 82-80  C+ = 79-77
C = 76-73   C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67  D = 66-63
D- = 62-60  F = 59 and below

Required Readings


Class Sessions
Each class session will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion and practical experience.

April 8, 2015
Understanding the Theme of Scripture Passages
Outlining for Creativity
Utilizing the Creative Method

April 15, 2015
Breaking Down Passages (repeated phrases and words)
Bridging the Two Worlds
Understanding Key Words
Discussion of book: Who is My Neighbor?
April 22, 2015
Understanding the Culture
Preaching from life experience of congregation
Looking for Illustrations in Newspapers, Radio, Movies and Current Events

Book Reflection Papers Due

April 29, 2015
First Seven minute Sermon Due
Preach in Class

May 6, 2015
Using Technology, i.e. Power Point, DVD player
Expository preaching
Thematic preaching
Discussion of book: Black Preaching

Gardner Taylor Sermons Paper Due

May 13, 2015
Using Drama
Art of Story Telling

May 20, 2015
People Involvement in Message
Relevant Messages

Five Sermon Reflection Papers Due

May 27, 2015
Second Seven minute Sermon Due
Preach in class

June 3, 2015
Spontaneous preaching
Variety in preaching

June 10, 2015
Complete Course Evaluation in Moodle

Final Exam

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@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.
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 L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

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](http://moodle.seminary.edu). The evaluation will be open at the end of the course. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.