

Contextual Ministry I: Homiletics and Liturgics
TH560A
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Winter Term, 2007
Class Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:30 - 4:20 PM
Practicum Sessions: Selected Wednesdays and Tuesdays (see below)

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Office Hours: by appointment or when the door is open...

Learning Goals:

The purpose of this course is to help students gain basic competence as worship leaders and preachers of the gospel in light of Lutheran traditions viewed ecumenically. Competencies include:

1. techniques like style, rate, pause, emphasis, and presence for leading public worship;
2. multiple ways of interpreting pastoral contexts and situations;
3. employing theological imagination for enriching the practice of preaching and liturgy;
4. understanding the practice of preaching and worship as more than matters of personal taste, aesthetics, or historical precedent, but primarily as *spoken and enacted Gospel*.

To meet these learning goals, the instructor is more than happy to help students individually during office hours or by special appointment.

Required Texts:

Keifert, Patrick R. *Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston: Cowley, 1994.

White, James. *History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Required Reading on Reserve:

González, Justo and Catherine. *Liberation Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Grading:

The percentage of the final grade of each assignment goes up as the term progresses. One goal of this course is to set a trajectory for learning. It values especially students' improvement over time. Students need not fret that a difficult first paper or sermon exercise dooms them to homiletical purgatory or the liturgical penalty box. In fact, as the semester progresses, the opportunities for growth and improvement only increase. Nonetheless, since beginning pastors almost always have to produce weekly sermons and services regardless of circumstances, late papers will result in an automatic reduction of grade by one letter. Your professor also reserves the right to sigh, grumble, and/or harrumph when late papers are submitted. So there.

Format:

The schedule on the following page shows that the course's format varies: lectures, workshops, discussions, etc. Still, you can figure out what will happen by looking at the typeface. The stuff I do is in regular type. **The stuff you do is in bold.**

Course Schedule

Session 1: January 9

First Hour: Syllabus, A Theology of Word & Sacrament: Preaching & Worship as Gospel

Second Hour: Lecture: "Reading Scripture: Voice, Presence, Phrasing, & Emphasis"

Third Hour: **Dry Run Practice Scripture Readings**

For next session: Read White's *Brief History of Christian Worship*, pp. 9-74

PRACTICUM I: Wed., Jan. 10, 9-11 "Liturgical Presidency" (Rev. Susan Johnson)

Session 2: January 16

First Hour: **Discussion of White's *Brief History of Christian Worship***

Second Hour: Lecture: "Liturgy and Structural Meaning"

Third Hour: **Practice Scripture Readings (Keffer Chapel)**

For next session: Read White's *Brief History of Christian Worship*, pp. 75-180

PRACTICUM II: Tues., Jan. 16, 4:30-5:30 "Chanting I" (Debbie Lou Ludolph)

Session 3: January 23

First Hour: **Discussion of White's *Brief History of Christian Worship***

Second Hour: **Assignment 1, Practice Readings, with feedback and debriefing.**

Third Hour: Preaching Law and Gospel: discussion of video of Barbara Brown Taylor

For next class: read chaps. 1-3, Wilson's *Four Pages* & chap. 4, González' *Liberation* (reserve)

PRACTICUM III: Tues., Jan. 23, 4:30-5:30 "Chanting II" (Debbie Lou Ludolph)

PRACTICUM IV: Wed., Jan. 24, 9:30-11 "Hymnody/Working w/ Musicians" (David Hall)

Session 4: January 30

First Hour: Sacred Time: Calendar and Liturgy

Second Hour: "Choosing a Preaching Text in light of the Calendar and other Contexts"

Third Hour: "First Impressions about Texts and How they Help You Preach"

For next class: read chaps. 4-7, Wilson and choose sermon date & text with field supervisor.

Session 5: February 6

First Hour: "Concerns of Text & Sermon: Test Cases for Preaching Law and Gospel"

Second Hour: "Resources for Homiletical Exegesis"

Third Hour: Sacred Space for Worship

For next class: read chaps. 8-11, Wilson's *The Four Pages of the Sermon*.

PRACTICUM V: Wed., Feb. 7, 9-11 "Visuals, Space, & Architecture" (Revs. Laverne/Bosch)

Session 6: February 13

First Hour: **Assignment #2 due**, Debrief & Resource

Second Hour: "Law & Gospel, aka Trouble & Grace: Concerns Taking Shape"

Third Hour: History and Theology of Baptism

For next class: read chap. 12, Wilson's *The Four Pages of the Sermon*.

February 19-23 Reading Week. No class!

Session 7: February 27

First Hour: **Assignment #3 due**, Debrief & Resource

Second Hour: "The Fine Art of Filming: Analogies, Examples, Illustrations"

Third Hour: History and Theology of Eucharist

For next class: read Taylor's *The Preaching Life*

Session 8: March 6

First Hour: **Discussion of Taylor's Book**, cultivating your imagination as a preacher,

Second Hour: Gardner Taylor video

Third Hour: Liturgical Action: Symbol, Ritual, and *Ordo*

PRACTICUM VI: Wed., Mar. 7, 9-11 "Presiding at Sacraments" (Rev. Susan Johnson)

Session 9: March 13

First Hour: **Assignment #4 due**, Debrief & Resource

Second Hour: "Introductions and Conclusions"

Third Hour: Order of Service I: Entrance

PRACTICUM VII: Wed., Mar. 14, 9-11 "Worship Planning & Resources" (Rev. Susan Johnson)

Session 10: March 20

Assignment #5, Practice Sermon _____

Session 11: March 27

Assignment #5, Practice Sermon _____

For next class sessions: Begin reading Kiefert's *Welcoming the Stranger*

PRACTICUM VIII: Wed., Mar. 28, 9-10:30 "Funerals, Weddings, Healing" (Rev. John Fogleman)

Session 12: April 3

First Hour: Order of Service II: Word

Second Hour: Order of Service III: Table

Third Hour: Order of Service IV: Sending

Session 13: April 10

Assignment #6 due, discussion of Keifert's book

Chrysostom, Evaluations, Fudge Pie

Note: Non-Lutheran WLS degree/diploma students can opt out of Practicum Sessions VI-VIII provided they contract with their field placement supervisors to cover those 5 1/2 hours at their field placement site. LOP Students are welcome to take the practicum, but are not required to do so. Practicum sessions are required for all Lutheran students, but will have no graded assignments. The only mark for the practicum will be for attendance taken at the beginning of each session.

Assignments:

1. Reading Scripture Aloud

Choose a scripture reading that you might plausibly read in your Contextual Ministry field placement. Liturgical types, for example, may wish to select an upcoming lectionary text. Free church types, well, can choose freely! Members of the class will respond gently to your reading as a way of helping all of us to think about our ministry of reading scripture aloud. Since even the most experienced preacher can expect that it won't go perfectly, go ahead. Sin boldly.

Due Date: Session 3 (1/23)--Percentage of Grade: 5%

2. Concerns of Text and Sermon for Your Pericope

Keeping in mind Wilson's concern for sound exegesis and the imaginative spark between Biblical text and contemporary situation, develop a one or two page list of concerns of the text and concerns of the sermon. The first should list concerns of the text arrived at through your own interpretive work supplemented by the help of others (e.g., commentaries, etc.). Use the class handout as an example. The second should list some of those same text concerns (marked with a **T:**) next to their corresponding concerns of the sermon (marked with a **S:**). After the list, please cite any commentaries or other works you consulted in a brief bibliography.

Due Date: Session 6 (2/13)--Percentage of Grade: 5%

3. Law/Gospel (aka, Trouble/Grace) Concerns of Texts with Transpositions

On one or two pages divide your concerns from Assignment 2 into Law and Gospel lists. With each concern begin to reflect playfully on how this particular concern manifests itself in your own awareness or in the broader social, political or cultural scene. Be creative here. Let the associations play themselves out. Finally, on the bottom of the page, develop a simple statement representing the emerging major concern of the text and sermon. Remember: it should be a "Gospel" or "Grace" concern, not a "Law" or "Trouble" concern.

Due Date: Session 7 (2/27)--Percentage of Grade: 5%

4. Sermon Structure with Doctrines and Stories.

Submit a one or two page sketch of your sermon that shows its four-page structure (including TTDNIM), filming strategies (analogies, examples, illustrations, images, metaphors, etc.) for each, and a clear statement of the major concern (remember, your major concern is always a "Gospel" or "Grace" concern). Try not to number them like points. Allow the Law/Gospel or Trouble/Grace logic of your sermon to come through on the page.

Due Date: Session 9 (3/13)--Percentage of Grade: 10%

5. Sermon Manuscript

Students will write out a brief sermon (approximately 10-15 minutes in length) to preach before the class based on the exegesis of the Biblical text chosen. Whether you use one or not in the pulpit, your professor expects a full manuscript to be handed in to the seminary office and placed in my box by the close of the business day (generally 4 PM) *one day in advance of practice preaching sessions*. Please remember: late manuscripts will receive a deduction of one full grade. If at all possible, students should be scheduled to preach their sermon in class before they preach it in their field placement. This way, students can use the comments of their peers and instructor to improve the sermon for Sunday.

Any revisions to a sermon after preaching it in class or in the field placement setting will be

cheerfully accepted in addition to the practice sermon manuscript. Students who wish to improve their grade this way may do so as long as they submit their revised sermon by the last day of class. Grace happens.

**Due Date: The Day before Sessions 10 or 11 (that means either 3/19 or 3/26) by 1 PM--
Percentage of Grade: 25%**

6. Analysis Paper: Eucharistic Service

Using Keifert's *Welcoming the Stranger* as a guide, analyze a Eucharistic service at your placement. How accessible is the service to the outsider? Begin with a description of what it's like to enter the building, get accustomed to the space, etc., but focus primarily on the liturgical actions and words used in that assembly. What is the explicit and implicit theology of worship there and how "welcoming" is it to the stranger?

Due Date: Session 13 (4/10)--Percentage of Grade: 35%

X. Lecture Attendance and Group Participation

In order to learn preaching and worship together regular attendance is expected at both the Tuesday class sessions and the scheduled practicum sessions. We will attempt to learn how to lead worship and preach as part of a community. By struggling together with our papers and sermons we will also grow together in ways that we can hardly imagine. This aspect of our time together will necessarily require the voicing of perspectives that many of us often ignore. Yet this is the greatest blessing presiders and preachers can receive. After all, the gospel may not come to us, unless it comes first through the voice of Another. How did Paul put it?: faith comes by hearing.

Due Date: Every Session--Percentage of Grade: 15%

FINAL NOTES:

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Special Needs Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

Although, sermons are oral events and rarely footnoted (thank God!), preachers do need to identify in their sermons when they have borrowed from elsewhere. "There's a story about...." or "Paul Tillich notes, "yada yada yada" is usually sufficient to identify that the preacher has borrowed material. In those (hopefully) rare moments when a student uses first-person illustrations, the assumption of course is that the material is indeed from oneself and **never** borrowed. Please see your instructor if you need further guidance on these or other matters of preaching ethics.

Since Waterloo Lutheran Seminary is a gospel-centred community, the faculty expects that students will not use language which might cause some to feel excluded from the gospel promise. This is both an important ethical issue and an issue of gospel communication. Guidelines for language use prepared by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and by Wilfrid Laurier University (<http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwpa/styleguide.pdf>) will help the student to avoid inadvertently placing barriers between people and the gospel. Students should make use of these guidelines.

Summary of Practicum Topics, Leaders, and Sessions

Liturgical Presidency	(S. Johnson)	Wednesday, Jan. 10, 9-11
Chanting Psalms	(D. L. Ludolph)	Tuesday, Jan. 16, 4:30-5:30
Chanting Liturgy	(D. L. Ludolph)	Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4:30-5:30
Hymnody/Working with Musicians	(D. Hall)	Wednesday, Jan. 24, 9:30-11
Visuals, Space, and Architecture	(A. Lavergne/Bosch)	Wednesday, Feb. 7, 9-11
Presiding at Sacraments	(S. Johnson)	Wednesday, Mar. 7, 9-11
Worship Planning & Resources	(S. Johnson)	Wednesday, Mar. 14, 9-11
Funerals, Weddings, Healing Serv's	(J. Fogleman)	Wednesday, Mar. 28, 9-10:30