

COS 324 – Preaching

Fall 2024

In-Person Times: September 13, 3:30 p.m.- 6 p.m./7 p.m.- 9 p.m.EDT and

September 14, 8:00 a.m.- 11 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.- 3:15 p.m. EDT

Zoom times: October 11, 7-9 p.m. EDT and October 12, 8:30- 10:30 a.m. EDT

Dr. Xavier L. Johnson

E-mail: Please send all course communications through Populi

COS 324 – Preaching Description, Outcomes, and Textbook set by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.

This course focuses on preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of proclamation.
2. Exegete a variety of biblical passages for preaching.
3. Evaluate sermons for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery, and appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons.
4. Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context.

TEXTS

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1993.

Wilson, Paul Scott, *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*, Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2018.

Wilson, Paul Scott, gen. ed., *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008. We will be reading individual articles as assigned below, sometimes noted as *The Handbook*.

Excerpt posted on Populi “Biblical Exegesis” from *The Practice of Preaching* by Paul Scott Wilson.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Notes:

1. All written assignments should include the appropriate citations and be typed in a 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
2. All Assignments should be uploaded to Populi by Saturday at midnight of the week they are assigned.

A. Reading and Reflection Assignments

1. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide To Biblical Preaching* by Paul Scott Wilson.

Please read the book listed above following the course calendar.

2. *Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Please read the book listed above and complete the following assignments following the course calendar:

- A. Create an “Essentials List” (a list of 20-25 paraphrased quotes that you find useful or interesting) from the book. You should have a quote from each chapter. Please cite appropriately. Submit your list via Populi.
- B. After we have finished the book, write a 500 word reflection and submit it via Populi. In your reflection address the following:
 - a. Paragraph 1: The intent of the text (What is the author’s argument and why is it important to them?)
 - b. Paragraph 2: The applicability of the text (How can it be useful for your preaching practice?)

Include the word count in the footer of the final page. Adhere to the word limit. Avoid preacher hyperbole. Avoid complex sentences. Avoid quotations. Avoid plagiarism.

C. Preaching Assignments

1. Choose one passage from each of the lists below. These will be the two passages you will exegete and use to write the two sermons you will preach during the course.

Hebrew Bible

- a. Genesis 9:1-17
- b. Exodus 14:15-30
- c. Psalm 1
- d. Proverbs 3:1-6
- e. Isaiah 9:6-7

New Testament

- a. John 1:1-5
- b. Acts 2:1-4
- c. Romans 10:8-13
- d. James 1:22-25
- e. Revelation 21:1-4

2. Exegetical Exercise

After reading “Biblical Exegesis” from *The Practice of Preaching* by Paul Scott Wilson (posted online in Populi), answer the questions listed at the end of the chapter for each of the two passages you selected.

Please upload your answers to the completed exercises to Populi with your sermon.

D. Sermons

Prepare two, seven-minute sermons using the passages you selected. Manuscripts/outlines (including a “Works Cited” page) should be uploaded to Populi, before class.

In your preparation you should use your answers from the exegetical exercises, other concepts from the class readings and at least one (1) devotional commentary, one (1) scholarly/exegetical commentary, and one (1) resource from popular culture.

E. Book Review

This assignment is an opportunity to read on a topic that we may not have covered in this class, to expand your perspective on preaching by engaging with an author who represents a different social location, to dig deeper in nurturing your own preaching voice, or to engage a concern for which you feel passion. You are welcome to suggest another book that is not on the list but please clear it with me first.

1. The review is to be 500 words in length (please note your word count at the bottom of your final page.)
2. The book review should have four sections: 1) a *summary* of the book’s argument and structure; 2) identification of several *strengths* in the book, including why you see them as strengths and identification of at least one *weakness* in the book from your perspective; 3) discuss how this text might be useful for some who is preparing to preach; and 4) your own *recommendation* of the book (e.g. who should read it and why?). **PLEASE ADHERE TO THIS OUTLINE WHEN WRITING YOUR REVIEW.**
1. Prepare a short presentation (about 5 minutes) that you will present during our class Zoom sessions in October

Adhere to the word limit. Avoid preacher hyperbole. Avoid complex sentences.

Avoid quotations. Avoid plagiarism.

Options for Book Review

Blount, Brian K. *Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

Brown, Sally. *Sunday’s Sermon for Monday’s World: Preaching to Shape Daring Witness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020.

Eslinger, Richard. *Preaching and the Holy Mystery: The Eucharist as Context and Resource for Proclamation*. Ashland City, TN: OSL Publications, 2016.

Howell, J. Dwayne and Charles L. Aaron Jr. *Preaching in/and the Borderlands*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2020.

Kim, Matthew and Daniel Wong, *Finding Our Voice: A Vision for Asian North American Preaching*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020.

Davis, Talbot. *Simplify the Message Multiply the Impact*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2020.

Gilbert, Keyatta. *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons about Justice and Hope*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018

Hozee, Scott. *Actuality: Real-Life Stories for Sermons that Matter*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2014.

LaRue, Cleophus. *The Future Shape of Christian Proclamation: What the Global South Can Teach Us About Preaching*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020.

Schade, Leah. *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2019.

Thomas, Frank A. *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*. Nashville: Nashville: Abingdon, 2018.

Thompson, Lisa. *Ingenuity: Preaching as an Outsider*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018.

Travis, Sarah *Decolonizing Preaching: The Pulpit as Postcolonial Space*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014.

Willimon, Will. *Preachers Dare: Speaking for God*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2020.

Schedule of Assignments
Preaching- COS 324
Fall 2024

Notes:

1. All written assignments should include the appropriate citations and be typed in a 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
2. All Assignments should be uploaded to Populi by Saturday at midnight of the week they are assigned.
3. Populi access will open for students on September 1, 2024 and close on October 31, 2024.

Date	Assignments
September 1, 2024 Populi Opens Asynchronous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read "Choosing and Delimiting the Text" (pp 1-3) and "Preaching in a Diverse World" (pp 291-293) in <i>Handbook of Preaching</i> 2. Complete Introduction post in Discussion Board 3. Read Wilson Introduction- Chapter 5 4. Read "Biblical Exegesis" from <i>The Practice of Preaching</i> by Paul Scott Wilson.
September 8, 2024 Asynchronous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Wilson Chapter 6- Chapter 12 2. Read "The Four Pages of the Sermon" in the <i>Handbook of Preaching</i> 3. Exegete one of the passages you chose using the "Biblical Exegesis" questions and write your first sermon. (You will should come to class with your sermon done, uploaded to Populi, and ready to preach on September 13, 2024)

<p>September 13, 2024 In-Person Session at MTSO</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions 2. Discuss Wilson text 3. Review Sermon Critique Process 4. Begin preaching
<p>September 14, 2024 In-Person Session at MTSO</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue preaching
<p>September 15, 2024 Asynchronous</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Taylor Foreword and Chapters 1 through 7 2. Read "Introduction: The Preacher's Performance" (pp. 213-215) and one of the subsections (i.e. Call, Character, Anxiety, etc.) and respond to the Discussion Board prompt.
<p>September 22, 2024 Asynchronous</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Taylor Part 2 2. Prepare and submit your Essentials List 3. Write and submit your review of Taylor
<p>September 29, 2024 Asynchronous</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exegete the second of the passages you chose using the "Biblical Exegesis" questions and write and upload a video of you preaching your second sermon to Populi.
<p>October 6, 2024 Asynchronous</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch the sermons you have been assigned (Assignments will be given out in advance) 2. Prepare a sermon response sheet

	for each assigned sermon and come to class prepared to debrief and offer feedback.
October 11, 2024 Online- Zoom	1. Sermon feedback in small groups
October 12, 2024 Online- Zoom	1. Continue Sermon feedback in small groups
October 13, 2024 Asynchronous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin reading your chosen book review text. 2. Read "Introduction: Social Location" (pp. 253-255) and one of the subsections (i.e. Bilingual Setting, Exegesis of Self, Crisis, etc.) and respond to the Discussion Board prompt.
October 25, 2024 Asynchronous	1. Submit your book review
October 31, 2024 Populi Closes	

COSSO Academic Honor Policy

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Cancellation and Withdrawal: Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative

Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

No Shows: Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.