

2016 **EMP 3304** Thursdays, 9-11am. **EMP 5304** 9-12noon.

THE NEW HOMILETIC

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The New Homiletic (NH) refers to a revolution in homiletics that began in the 1950s. This course concentrates on the key developments in the NH to around 2000, by which most of the NH themes were established and some departures were seen. Its influences continue, as seen in the two main textbooks. This course will explore the emergence of the NH from the “old homiletic” that is characterized by point form, mechanical notions of structure, vertical notions of authority, use of the Bible in propositional ways, deductive sermons, stories used as illustrations of points already made, objective ideas of truth, religious experience as universal, and sermons that stressed faith as information. By contrast the NH emphasizes a turn to the hearer, organic form, narrative plot, horizontal notions of authority, recovery of the Bible for the pulpit, inductive sermons, stories making their own points in their own ways, contextual understandings of truth, dynamic and tensive notions of language, and sermons as transformational experience. Selected key homileticians will be considered as we consider the ongoing relevance of the NH for today.

Learning Outcomes:

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

- (a) in respect of general academic skills
Use language in a way that enhances its tensive nature and communicates experience.
- (b) in respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines
Helps students to speak of God in contextual ways, and of justice in personal ways.
- (c) in respect of personal and spiritual formation
Spirituality will be deepened through greater awareness of God in and through the ordinary.
- (d) in respect of ministerial and public leadership
Skill will be gained with conversational preaching and creative composition for speech.

Required Texts:

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

Jonker, Peter. *Preaching in Pictures: Using Images for Sermons that Connect*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2015.

5304 students are to come to the extra hour of each class having read two chapters of

Craddock, Fred. *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching*. St Louis: Chalice Press, 2011.

Recommended Sermon Reading:

Buechner, Fredrick. *A Room Called Remember, or Secrets in the Dark*.

Craddock, Fred. *The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock*. Louisville: WJKP, 2012.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *Bread of Angels*. Boston: Cowley Press, 1997. (or others)

Assignments, Due Dates, and Evaluation

This course is in seminar format and relies on the shared leadership and participation of the students to meet its goals. 5304 meets for an extra hour following the class.

3304 Requirements:

- 1) Class attendance is required. Participation, including reports on the readings: **5%**.
- 2) Numerous short creative writing assignments. Due on the designated class dates. **10%**
- 3) Short oral presentations (less than 3 minutes) on weekly readings from Hoezee and Jonker. Format: (a) What was interesting to me, (b) what was problematic, (c) what I might try in preaching. **10%**
- 4) Preach your **first sermon** to your small group. Pick a lectionary text for an upcoming Sunday. Submit or possibly preach to the whole class by February 11. **25%**
- 6) A 5 minute class presentation on the homiletical method of one of the assigned books chosen in consultation with the instructor at the end of term. **10%**
- 7) A **second sermon** to be submitted or preached to the class on the signed date after reading week, using a lectionary text for the upcoming Sunday. **30%** (5304 students submit or preach only one sermon by April 7.)
- 8) Written evaluations of class sermons, in duplicate, are to be given, one to the preacher the next week and the collection to the instructor at the end of term. Evaluations are to show critical engagement with class theory. **10%**

5304 Requirements:

- 1) and 2), as above, valued at a total of 5%.
- 3) Submit (or possibly preach) one sermon by April 7. 20%
- 4) **Teaching Presentations (15 minutes maximum** in total), on books listed in the outline, according to the date you sign. Plan on reading selectively, approximately 200 pages from the various books you are assigned for the date. Provide a 2 page class handout with quotations (cited properly) and observations, roughly divided (in an order that makes sense) as: (a) Homiletic Methods (**5 min.**) (b) Implicit and Explicit Theological Norms: i.e., what do they assume or state about "the Word," "the congregation," "the preacher," "preaching," "scripture," and God? (**3 min.**) (c) Something practical for preachers to try (**1 min.**) (d) a video clip or audio segment (**3 min.**) of one of authors, (e) and leave time for conversation with the class (**3 min.**) This

will be evaluated as a teaching assignment. It is not to be a summary lecture of each book in turn, but an integrated and critical handling of the books along theme lines or categories that you determine in relation to the NH. Teaching effectiveness will be evaluated by quality of content, engagement of the class, effective use of teaching aids, degree of interest generated, energy and overall manner of presentation, and class feedback. **25%**

5) A 5 minute class presentation on the homiletical method of one of the assigned books chosen in consultation with the instructor at the end of term. **5%**.

6) A 15-20 page essay is to be submitted by April 14 on a topic negotiated with the instructor, ideally related to your teaching assignment. It will be worth **45%** of the final grade.

Please Note:

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact the University of Toronto for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

COURSE OUTLINE

1/14 Introduction: Background to the New Homiletic

Playing Catch-up: The Post-War Effect. A look at the delayed impact of the Romantics with special consideration of Broadus, the “Old Homiletic”, and African American Preaching, Amos Wilder, and W. F. Lynch.

1/21 The New Rise of Themes and Organic Forms

Read: *Actuality*, 1-45.

5304: Craddock, *Craft of Preaching*, Chapters 1-3.

5304 Presenter:

H. Grady Davis, *Design for Preaching*. 1958. 1-78; 98-186

R.E.C. Browne, *The Ministry of the Word*, Chapters 1&2.

Exercise: Using John 2:1-11, bring to class a theme sentence with God as the subject (no more than 6 words), and write 80 words to start that sermon. It should ‘hook’ the listener.

1/28 The New Hermeneutic and the Rise of Narrative: God as an Early Focus

Read: *Actuality*, 45-90.

5304: Craddock, Chapters 4-6

5304 Presenter:

Howard Thurman, *Deep River*. 1945. (describe what he does)

Robinson, James M. "Hermeneutics since Barth," in *The New Hermeneutic*. 1964. 1-77.

David Randolph, *The Renewal of Preaching*. 1969. 1-25.

Exercise: Imitate any Barbara Brown Taylor or Fred Craddock sermon and say something captivating about God in your Bible text from last week. 80 words.

2/4 **Storytelling the Bible: Finding a Plot/ The Turn to the Hearers**

Read: *Actuality*, 90-130. *Preaching in Pictures*, 1-22.

5304: Craddock, Chapters 7-8

5304 Presenter:

Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*. 1977

Eugene L. Lowry, *The Homiletical Plot*. 1980

Paul Wilson, *Imagination of the Heart*. 1988. (Ch. 1, poles+hermeneutical spiral)

Henry Mitchell, *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. 1990

Christine Smith, *Weaving the Sermon: Preaching in a Feminist Perspective*.
Louisville: WJKP, 1989. (explain weaving as structure)

Exercise: Twice-Told Bible Stories. Retell a Bible story (or portion thereof) in no more than 3 minutes. Make it interesting in the manner of Craddock.

2/11 **Narrative Sermons: Effective Imagery & Form**

Read: *Preaching in Pictures*, 23-62.

5304: Craddock, Chapters 9 & 10

5304 Presenter:

Fred Craddock. *As One Without Authority*, 1979.

Tom Troegger. *Creating Fresh Images for Preaching*, 1982. (select a chapter or two)

Wardlaw, Don, ed. *Preaching Biblically: Creating Sermons in the Shape of Scripture*. 1983. Introduction.

Tom Long, *Preaching the Literary Forms of the Bible*, 1989. (Chapter 1 and skim the rest)

Exercise: Choose any city block, walk it, and imagine taking a photo of one thing or event. Now create that event in words. (80 words)

--READING WEEK 2/17--

2/25 Class Preaching for 3304 students (10 minutes or less). 3304 students submit their sermons after preaching them to one another outside of class.

3/3 **Story Matures**

Read: *Preaching in Pictures*, 63-93.

5304: Craddock, Chapters 11-13.

5304 Presenter:

Richard Lischer, "The Limits of Story," *Interpretation* 38:1 (Jan., 1984) 26-38.

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Mixed Blessings*, 1986. (brief analysis of "Mixed Blessings" sermon)

Tom Long, *The Witness of Preaching*, 1989. (sermon structure, role of God, focus and function statements)

David Buttrick, *Moves and Structures*, 1988. (define moves and structures)

3304 *Exercise:* Using Jonker, 90-91, follow his three steps for your second sermon.

5304 *Exercise:* Using the two things Craddock says are needed for the shock of recognition, write a paragraph of trouble for your next sermon. 80 words

3/10 **Responses within the New Homiletic**

Read: *Preaching in Pictures*, 95-123.

5304: Craddock, Chapters 16-18

5304 Presenters-- overviews of the following:

Jana Childers, *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre*. 1998.

Christine Smith, *Preaching as Weeping, Confession and Resistance*. 1992.

Lucy Rose, *Sharing the Word*. 1997.

John McClure, *The Roundtable Pulpit*. 1996.
Ronald J. Allen. *Patterns of Preaching*. 1998.

3:17 **Return to Theology**

5304: Craddock, Chapters 14-15

5304 Presenters-- overviews of the following:

Elizabeth Achtemeier, *The Old Testament and the Proclamation of the Gospel*. 1973. 82-116.

Charles L. Campbell, *Preaching Jesus Christ*. 1997.

Cleo LaRue, *The Heart of Black Preaching*. 1999. (1-29, 68-127)

3/24 **Return to Theology**

5304: Craddock, Chapters 14-15

David Buttrick, *Preaching the New and the Now*. 1998.

Mary Catherine Hilker, *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*. 1997.

Paul Wilson, *The Four Pages of the Sermon*, 1998.

3/31 **Class Preaching**

4/7 **Class Preaching**



SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Allen, Wesley. *The Renewed Homiletic*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- Black, Kathy. *A Healing Homiletic: Preaching and Disability*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
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- _____. *A Room Called Remember*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.
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- Francisco: Harper and Row, 1990.
- Florence, Anna Carter. *Preaching as Testimony*. Louisville: WJKP, 2007.
- Hilkert, Mary Catherine. *Naming Grace: Preaching and Sacramental Imagination*. New York: Continuum, 1997.
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