PROPHETIC PREACHING: Structure & Substance

Instructors:
Rev. Dr. Reginald Williams Jr.
rwwilliams@mccormick.edu

Dates & Times:
Feb 1 (6:00-9:00), Feb 2 (9:00-4:00)
Feb 22(6:00-9:00), Feb 23(9:00-4:00)
March 15 (6:00-9:00), March 16
(9:00-4:00)
April 12, (6:00-9:00) April 13 (9:00-4:00)

Course description:
This course is designed to provide the learner with the theoretical framework and corresponding method to be able to sermonically and prophetically preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Learners will be challenged to understand the historical, cultural, economic, and socio-political dynamics of prophetic preaching, as well as its core elements, which are essential to anyone seeking to serve in faithfulness to the tradition of prophetic witness.

Prophetic preaching is preaching which is rooted in the biblical tradition of the prophets from Amos through Jesus. It is proclaiming (telling forth) the Word of God and the Will of God. It is the recognition of the current reality while preaching an alternative reality rooted in the will of God for God’s people. It always has a God to human dimension as well as a human to human dimension.

Course Requirements:
Because the format of this class requires participation and presentation, regular class attendance and reading that is complete, careful, and on schedule are essential for this class. Students will be required to:
➢ Prepare and preach 2 sermons grounded in prophetic witness using the correlation method
➢ Complete reading assignments, and be ready to discuss
➢ Prepare a final paper of 15 pages
➢ Complete assignments on due dates
➢ Keep and maintain a notebook inclusive of notes from class lectures and readings,
**Required Texts**

Ayers, Danielle L. & Williams, Reginald W. *To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministries In the Black Church.* Judson Press, 2013.

Gilbert, Kenyatta R., *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons About Justice And Hope.* Abingdon Press 2018


**Grading:**

25% of the students grades will be based on the following factors:

1. Class Attendance (5%), participation (10%), and pop quizzes (15%)—25%
2. 2 Sermons (25% each) using correlation method, inclusive of prophetic content—50%
   a. Note that this sermon should be no longer than 10 minutes
   b. Students will turn in the manuscript to the professor prior to delivery of sermon
   c. All sermons will be peer and professor reviewed in real time.
3. Final paper—25%

**All assignments should be**

Submitted electronically through Moodle.

Typed in 12pt font, double spaced, and include a cover page.

All sources (journal articles, essays, quotes, movies, music, etc.) must be appropriately cited according to McCormick guidelines. Consult the LRWC center in the library for citation details.

**Wikipedia will not be accepted as a scholarly source.**

**
Scale
Course grades are determined according to the following formula. Individual assignments are
graded numerically and final grades are letter grades. Numerical grades translate into the follow-
ing letter grades:

A    100 – 95
A-   94 – 90
B+   89 – 86
B    85 – 82
B-   81 – 79
C+   78 – 75
C    74 – 71
C-   70 – 67
D    66
F    55

What Grades Mean?
“A” Work of exceptionally high or superior quality
“B” Good, not just average or adequate quality
“C” Adequate, average or passing
“D” Only meets minimal requirements, but shows potential for growth
“F” Submitted late, doesn’t meet minimal standards and/or plagiarized work

Course Policies
Late Policy
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session on the date indicated on the syllabus.
In the case of an emergency, extensions may be available, but only after contacting the professor
in advance to discuss possible options. If you do not turn in your assignment when it is due, or
by the agreed upon date in the case of an extension, expect to lose at least 1/3 of the total grade
for the assignment.

Accommodations
Anyone having a documented condition or learning disability that will require an accommoda-
tion should let the instructor know the first week of class so that arrangements can be made.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism occurs whenever anyone takes credit for someone else’s words or thoughts. It can
range in severity from inadvertently omitting a citation to printing an entire paper off the Inter-
et. When in doubt, cite. Feel free to discuss assignments with one another. To help avoid pla-
Courier, however, do not share your papers with anyone else in the class. See the student hand-
book for the seminary policy on plagiarism.
Schedule of Reading And Assignments
INTRODUCTION TO PROPHETIC PREACHING

Schedule of Reading And Assignments
February 1, 2019 (6:00-9:00)
• CLASS EXPECTATIONS & INTRODUCTION
• Themes
  • What is prophetic Preaching?
• Required Reading:
  • Tisdale, Chapter 1-2
  • Hendricks, Chapter 1-2

February 2, 2019 (9:00 -4:00)
Prophetic Preaching:
Reading Scripture & Society
Where does Prophetic preaching come from?
Who were the prophets?
• Themes:
  • Biblical Context
• Required Reading:
  • Chapter 2 of Born to Preach “Cultural Affinity between Ancient Yahwists, and African Americans”
  • Exodus Preaching
  • Handouts
  • Issue identification (identify one issue on which you want to preach, and the text to go with it)

February 22 (6:00-9:00)
• Quiz on Previous Lesson
• Sermon Structure & Method
• Themes
  • Sermon Definition
  • Sermon Content
    • Kerygma
• Required Reading
  • Handouts
• Where Have All The Prophets Gone
• Exodus Preaching

February 23 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
• Sermon Structure & Method:
  • Correlation Method
    • Organizing Observation
    • Title
    • Introduction
    • Relevant Question / Transition
    • Moves / Point Development
    • Kerygmatic Fulfillment

March 15, 2019 (6:00-9:00)
Bringing It All Together
• Content & Method
  • Review of Prophetic Preaching Components
  • Review of Correlation Method of Preaching

March 16, 2019
• Sermon #1

April 12, 2019 (6:00-9:00)
• Sermon #2

April 13, 2019 (9:00- 4:00)
• Sermon #2
• Conclusion of Class
• Paper Due

Additional Suggested Readings
Dyson, Michael Eric. *Tears We Can't Stop Crying: A Sermon To White America*. St. Martins Press, 2017


Thomas, Frank. *How To Preach A Dangerous Sermon*. Abingdon Press, 2018