Syllabus
Homiletical Options and Homiletical Analysis
STH TC 816
Boston University School of Theology
Fall Term, 2012
Class Sessions: Fridays, 9 AM to Noon

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Description:
This course is an advanced homiletics seminar that in alternate years either reviews contemporary homiletic theory (“Homiletical Options”) or explores practices of sermon analysis (“Homiletical Analysis”). Pre-requisite: TC715 (“Introduction to Preaching”) or its equivalent.

Learning Goals:
This course is designed to help advanced M.Div., STM, and doctoral students grasp contemporary options in primarily mainline Protestant North American homiletic theory. While a brief introduction to the background of the field in its present state will be part of the course, students will begin by becoming familiar with the work of those figures in the field who have embraced what some have called "the new homiletic." While these figures represent a great variety of theoretical positions, the one thing that comes closest to uniting them is the so-called "turn to the hearer." As a result, students will leave this course with
1. A good grasp of the field of contemporary homiletic theory from the 1960’s to the present,
2. an understanding of the hermeneutical concerns that fueled the revolution in theory,
3. an appreciation for the “return to theology” that emerged out of it over the last fifteen years.
4. an opportunity to locate the student’s own homiletical approach in terms of both theory and theology within the landscape of the field today.

Required Texts:

All required texts and articles are available on reserve at the STH Library.

This course is a seminar in format. As such it depends on the shared leadership of the students to meet its goals. In the schedule below, the portions led by the professor are in regular type; the portions for which students are responsible are in bold type.
Schedule:

9/7  Syllabus, schedule, and assignments.
      Lecture on Augustine’s On Christian Doctrine
      Determine schedule of presentation assignments

For next week, read Buttrick’s article “Interpretation and Preaching” and chapter 1 of
Bond, Contemporary African-American Preaching. Both are on reserve at the STH library

9/14  Background to the New Homiletic
      Lecture: From John Broadus to H. Grady Davis
      Discussion of Buttrick’s article and Bond’s chapter 1 in class.
      Lecture: The New Hermeneutic and the Transition of Homiletic Theory

Over the next three sessions, read the intro and chapters in Eslinger’s A New Hearing.

9/21  The Early New Homiletic and the Turn to the Hearer
      Presentation: David Randolph
      Presentation: Fred Craddock
      Discussion: Craddock sermon
      Lecture: From Inductivity to Story and Discourse: A Primer on Narrative Theories

9/28  Narrative and Story Preaching in the New Homiletic
      Presentation: Eugene Lowry
      Discussion: Lowry sermon
      Presentation: Charles Rice
      Discussion: Rice sermon

10/5  Preaching and the Turn to the Hearers
      Presentation: Henry Mitchell
      Discussion: Mitchell sermon
      Presentation: David Buttrick
      Discussion: Buttrick sermon

For next week, read Susan Bond’s Contemporary African American Preaching

10/12  The New Homiletic and Contemporary African American Preaching Traditions
      Presentation: Gardner Calvin Taylor
      Discussion: Taylor Sermon
      Presentation: James Earl Massey
      Discussion: Massey Sermon

For next week, read Dale Andrews’ article, “New to Whom?”;
David Lose’s article, "Whither Hence the New Homiletic;" and
Part IV (pp. 171-231) of Richard Bernstein’s Beyond Objectivism and Relativism on reserve.

10/19  Assessment and New Turns: Beyond the New Homiletic
      Discuss Lose and Andrews’ articles
      Lecture: Beyond the New Hermeneutic and the New Homiletic
      Discuss Richard Bernstein’s Part IV
10/26  *A Postmodern Turn to the Hearers: Homiletics as Conversation*

**Presentation:** John McClure (RP)  
**Discussion:** McClure sermon

**Presentation:** Wes Allen
**Discussion:** Allen Sermon

For next week read Lischer’s article “The Limits of Story” and Lose’s article “Narrative and Proclamation in a Postliberal Homiletic” on reserve.

11/2  *A Re-turn to Theology: Neo-Barthian/Post-Liberal Reactions to the New Homiletic*

**Discuss** Lischer’s article, “The Limits of Story”

**Presentation:** Paul Wilson
**Discussion:** Wilson Sermon

**Presentation:** Charles Campbell
**Discussion:** Lose’s article, “Narrative and Proclamation in a Postliberal Homiletic”

For next week read Rose’s *Sharing the Word*

11/9  *A Re-turn to Theology: Revisionist and Liberationist Responses to the New Homiletic*

**Presentation:** Christine Smith
**Discussion:** Smith sermon

**Presentation:** Ron Allen
**Discussion:** Allen sermon

Discuss Rose’s *Sharing the Word*

11/16  *A Return to Theology: Contextual Theological Responses to the New Homiletic*

**Presentation:** Eunjoo Mary Kim
**Discussion:** Kim sermon

**Presentation:** Cleo LaRue
**Discussion:** LaRue sermon

For next week read John McClure’s *Other-Wise Preaching*

11/23—no class: Thanksgiving Recess

11/30  *A Return to Theology: Other Postmodern Responses to the New Homiletic, cont.*

**Discuss** John McClure’s *Other-Wise Preaching*

**Presentation:** Anna Carter Florence
**Discussion:** Carter Florence sermon

**Presentation:** David Lose

For next week read David Schnasa Jacobsen’s "Homiletical Exegesis and Theologies of Revelation..." and Paul Wilson’s *Preaching and Homiletical Theory*

12/7  *Final Session*

**Discuss** David Schnasa Jacobsen’s "Homiletical Exegesis and Theologies of Revelation..." and Paul Wilson’s *Preaching and Homiletical Theory*

**Evaluation**
Depending on the needs and interests in class, your prof may be willing to add or substitute figures to meet students’ research interests.

Assignments:

1. **In-Class Presentations (multiple per student=50% of final grade)**
Each student will provide a fifty-minute presentation on a chosen figure for that day covering:
(1) Their Homiletic Method (30 min.)
(2) Implicit and Explicit Theological Norms: e.g., what do they assume or state about "hearers," "the preacher," "preaching," "scripture," and their relationship to God, Christ, and/or the Holy Spirit? (10 min.)
(3) A Brief Evaluation and time for questions. (10 min.)
Over the course, each student will be responsible for multiple figures. Therefore, each presentation will amount to an even fraction of 50% of your final grade. Since this will require significant reading outside class, I will gladly help you to find books and articles that will speed you on your way and answer questions as they arise (either by phone or e-mail).

2. **Final Paper (50% of final grade)**
Each student will write a final paper of about 20 pp. in length on a topic of homiletic theory that touches on some aspect of the homiletic method of one or more of our figures above. Students may want to think about a topic that relates to future congregational practice or dissertation research. You will need to agree on your topic with the instructor prior to writing and submitting it. The paper is due at the end of Final Exam period, Friday, December 21, 2012.

**Course Policies**

Any students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should meet with the instructor as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Boston 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. For a copy of the STH Code of Academic Content see http://www.bu.edu/sth/academics/academic-conduct/

Students taking the course for doctoral credit are required to do all work at a doctoral level. This may involve extra in-class assignments. In addition, doctoral students should submit one review of a recent book related to the course content for publication in an appropriate journal. The length should be between 500-1000 words.
Required Texts to Purchase:


Required Readings on Reserve:


Those students who are members of the Academy of Homiletics should also be able to find a copy in the password-protected portion of the Academy’s web site: [www.homiletics.org](http://www.homiletics.org)
Presentation Texts  (These are not on reserve, so please secure your copy now if presenting):


Rice, Charles. Please speak to your professor for bibliographic recommendations.


Taylor, Gardner Calvin. Please speak to your professor for bibliographic recommendations.


Relevant Ph.D. Learning Outcomes for this Course pertain specifically to contemporary homiletic theory as a component of the doctoral concentration in homiletics:

1. **Knowledge of the area of concentration**

| 1.1 (course) End of course stage: basic familiarity with a significant proportion of the subjects within their area of concentration |
| 1.1 (exam) End of qualifying stage: basic familiarity with a major proportion of the subjects within their area of concentration |

| 1.1 basic familiarity with their area of concentration, as outlined in the departmental description of the field and as understood in scholarly discussion at the forefront of study in the area; to provide basic answers to most questions from first-year students arising from a typical introductory course (e.g., in the context of a tutorial); |

2. **Ability with scholarly tools and skills**

| 2.5 proficiency in the following skills: to produce standard forms of scholarly engagement, both written (e.g., publishable research paper, publishable book review) and oral (presentation of a paper, response to an oral presentation, lecture), of a quality consistent with standards for an entry-level academic appointment. |

| • clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms; • the construction of a logical argument; • the making of informed judgments on complex issues; • the use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing. |