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MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE COURSE OF STUDY (COS) SYLLABUS FOR COS 324- PREACHING

July 18 – August 27, 2022

# Reverend Cynthia A. Cross, Instructor

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# Pastor of Aldersgate UMC

# 655 Beasley Road

# Jackson, MS 39206

**Course Objectives:**

# The goal of this course is to help pastors/preachers understand the importance and power of preaching, and to receive practical guidance for preparing and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ from both the Old and New Testaments.

The objectives of this course are to help students:

* Articulate a theology of proclamation
* Learn how to exegete biblical texts
* Discuss ONE method of sermon preparation (based primarily on the teaching of Fred Craddock)
* Preach a sermon *without notes*
* Prepare a second sermon manuscript
* Participate in the evaluation of sermon videos of your classmates for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery; and to appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons
* Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context

**Required Texts:**

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

LaRue, Cleophus. The Heart of Black Preaching. Westminster John Knox

Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2000.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. The Preaching Life. Cowley Publications, Cambridge, Massachusetts,1993.

**Reference Text:**

Wilson, Paul Scott. The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching. Abingdon Press, Nashville,

2008.

**Supplemental Text:**

Webb, Joseph. Preaching Without Notes. Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2011.

Hamilton, Adam. Unleashing the Word: Preaching with Revelance, Purpose, and Passion.

Abbington Press, Nashville, 2000

**Suggested Texts by Instructor**

Ryken, Leland, James Wilhoit, Tremper Longman Ill. Dictionary of Biblical Imagery. InterVarsity

Press, USA, Illinois, 1998.

Sweet, Leonard. Giving Blood: a fresh paradigm for preaching. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2014.

Tisdale, Lenora Tubbs. Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach. Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2010.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The following are the requirements for a passing grade in this class:

1. **BE PRESENT AND ON TIME.** Class time is limited, thus extremely important. Attendance at ALL sessions is required. THESE SESSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED OVER ZOOM. ZOOM login information will be provided on Course Connect.
   1. First Zoom Session**:** July 22, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

July 23, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

First Session will focus on the required readings and shared experiences of preaching and each student’s theology of proclamation.

* 1. Second Zoom Session: August 5, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

August 6, 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

Second Session will focus on sermon preparation including exegeting of biblical passages, and resources needed in preparing sermons, and your individual style, voice, and methodology in sermon preparation.

* 1. Third Zoom Session: August 26, 6:00 pm – 8:00pm

August 27, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Third Session will focus on the experience of preaching without notes, sharing feedback with each other on viewing your fellow classmates’ sermon videos. We will discuss developing plans for ordering and delivering sermons in your individual appointed congregational and communal settings.

1. **READ THE REQUIRED BOOKS (Craddock*, LaRue, and Taylor)* AND TURN IN THE BOOK REVIEWS.** Prior to the first weekend session, students are required to read the three texts and prepare a two (2) to three (3)- page **typed [double-spaced]** **review of each** **book**. **The book reviews MUST be emailed or postmarked by July 21, 2022. Without the book reviews, no passing grade is possible.**

**SEND TO:**

**Reverend Cynthia A. Cross**

[preacherwoman98@gmail.com](mailto:ccross@mississippi-umc.org)

*(Email is the preferred modem of submitting assigned work.)*

NOTE: In preparing the book reviews, the students MUST use the following "**Guidelines for Book**

**Reviews1 :**

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* + each book review should be between 2 and 3 pages in length.
  + the opening paragraph of the book review [1/2 page] should describe generally what the book is about (the subject) and the author's purpose in writing it.
  + the largest section of the book review [1page] should adequately cover the material in the book
  + the closing paragraph [1/2 to 1 page] should be a summary of your conclusions about the book: *What did you learn from this book? How has this book contributed to your understanding of preaching? What will I use/not use from this book?*

PLEASE NOTE: You are free to love or hate the books you read; but the book review MUST communicate: *WHAT DOES THE AUTHOR SAY?.as well as any personal reviews on the books.* ALL writing assignments should be TYPED (double­ spaced]. Remember to reference any quotes; plagiarism is not allowed.

**Ill. PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSION.** A major element of the Zoom class sessions is class participation discussion. Students are expected to listen, offer their input, but also to give appropriate consideration to others. As part of your asynchronous time, you will also be assigned some videos through Course Connect to view before each of the last two Zoom sessions to share your observations with your classmates through Course Connect and in our class time on Zoom.

1. **PREACH A GOOD SERMON -WITHOUT NOTES.** Each student will video a **sermon for preaching without notes** to be uploaded to Course Connect.
   1. The text for this sermon will be chosen from the Revised Common Lectionary Scripture readings for the dates of August 7th (9th Sunday after Pentecost) OR August 14th (10th Sunday after Pentecost), the student’s choice.
   2. **Students will provide the instructor with a sheet listing the sermon title, Scripture text, the theme sentence, and a list of all sources used in sermon preparation by email when video is uploaded to Course Connect. The deadline to upload your videos online is August 8, 2022.**
   3. **The time given for the length of each video for this sermon preached without notes should be approximately fifteen (15) minutes to twenty (20) minutes.**
   4. **An evaluation form will be provided for each student to evaluate each submitted sermon video. The instructions for assessing this evaluation will be on your Course Connect. You will view and evaluate these videos as part of your grade and class participation and email your completed forms to the instructor. Please try to get these completed before the last Zoom session for this class, August 27.**
2. **Submit a second sermon by manuscript from the Revised Common Lectionary Scripture readings for August 21(11th Sunday after Pentecost). This is a manuscript not an outline and should have a range of six (6) to ten (10) double-spaced typed pages. The deadline for this sermon to be submitted by email is August 22, 2021.**

**CLASS GRADING SCALE**

This course is graded on a letter grade basis from A to F, with the instructor responsible for assigning a grade. The grade will be based on how well the student meets the following criteria:

* + **Well-written** and **timely** submitted written requirements
  + Delivery of sermons that demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. Theologically sound
2. Draws in listeners
3. Engages the text
4. Proclaims good news
5. Invites response
6. Is well-delivered
   * **Attendance of all class sessions online**
   * **Participation in class discussions**

***Unacceptable work for the MS Conference COS is assigned the letter grades of D or F and will result in no credit given for course. The student will have to repeat the course in order to receive credit.***