

‘Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
LTRGY 650/850 – Preaching and the Margins*
Spring 2023

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Class Format: In- Person and Online Synchronous

Class Meeting Time: Friday – 12:00 – 6:00
Saturday – 12:00 – 3:00

Class Meeting Dates:

1. February 16 & 17
2. March 1 & 2
3. March 22 & 23
4. April 19 & 20

Class Schedule:

Friday:
12:00 – 1:30 Session 1
1:30 – 2:00 Break
2:00 – 3:30 Session 2
3:30 – 4:00 Break
4:00 – 5:30 Session 3
Saturday:
12:00 – 1:30 Session 4
1:30 – 2:00 Break
2:00 – 3:30 Session 5

Course Description:

In this course we will seek to confront and engage the issue of marginalization, with the hope of attaining a clearer understanding of the concept of the margins, the issue of marginality including the impact of the recent pandemics on the issue itself and on marginalized, that confronts a myriad of individuals and groups in society and the world. Through individually selected and defined projects, we will move beyond ideas and concepts to confront the reality of what it means to live on the margins of society, with attention given to the circumstances of those who more recently, because of unprecedented situations found themselves on the margins. The contents of the course will include biblical interpretation, theological analysis, and contextual engagement based on realities from the perspectives of marginalized persons.

In the process of creating and preaching sermons that offer good news to people who are impacted by the issue of marginality, students will be required to design and develop a project that puts them in direct contact with a person or persons on the margins. We will also read narratives and study other forms of artistic expressions from people who are considered or who consider themselves marginalized. This will include readings that are more closely connected with prophetic preaching, trauma informed preaching and issues connected with decolonizing preaching such as works on resistance and the gospel of liberation for all people.

Course Outcomes

As the student fulfills the requirements of this course, the student will learn to...

1. Understand the complexities entailed in the concept of the margins and marginality.
2. Identify the impact of oppression and whiteness in creating a culture of marginality.
3. Recognize the influence of marginality on the lives of segments and groups of persons who do not fit the prevailing culture of whiteness prevalent in US society.
4. Develop and articulate a theology of preaching from the margins of society and the world in order to reflect theologically, biblically, liturgically and critically on the realities of suffering people.
5. Be more self-reflective on ideological and ethical issues that pertain to the task of preaching to, from, and about the margins in order to confront the issue of marginality as symbolic of oppression and injustice.
6. Develop the facility to understand and interpret scripture from the perspective of the marginalized.
7. Create sermons that offer relevant good news to persons who are marginalized by using their homiletical imagination in the creation of sermons that are reflexive, creative, contextual and biblical.

Assessment instruments connected to course outcomes (above):

1. In-Class Participation.
2. In-Class Participation.
3. In-Class Participation, Course Project.
4. In-Class Participation, Reflection Paper,
5. In-Class Participation, Reflection Paper.
6. In-Class Participation, Preached Sermons.
7. In-Class Participation, Preached Sermons, Individual Project.

Required Texts:

1. m. daniel carroll r., *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, & the Bible*, (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2013) ISBN 978-1-58743-351-1 \$25.46
2. James H. Cone, *God of the Oppressed*, (Minneapolis, Minnesota: The Seabury Press, 1975). ISBN 0-8164-2607-4 \$9.99 (Kindle version)
3. Miguel A. De La Torre, *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins, 3rd Edition* (New York: Orbis Books, 2023). ISBN: 978-1626980754 \$32.38
4. Frank A. Thomas, *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018) ISBN-13: 978-1-5018-5683-9 \$17.99
5. Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996) ISBN 978-0-8070-1029-7 \$12.99

6. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. **Please have your NRSV Bible available in hard copy or ready on your computer for use at each class.**

Secondary Texts:

1. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, (New York: The New Press, 2012).
2. William L. Andrews, *Six Women's Slave Narratives*, (Oxford: Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers, 1989).
3. Warren R. Copeland, *Doing Justice in Our Cities: Lessons in Public Policy from America's Heartland*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)
4. Miguel A. De La Torre, *Reading the Bible from the Margins*, (New York: Orbis Books, 2002).
5. Daniel G. Groody C.S.C. , *The Option for the Poor in Christian Theology*, (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007).
6. Obery M. Hendricks, *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teaching and How They Have Been Corrupted*, (New York: Three Leaven Press, 2008).
7. Arnold Krupat and Brian Swann, Editors, *Here First: Autobiographical Essays by Native American Writers*, (New York: Modern Library Paperbacks, 2000).
8. Otis Moss III, *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015).
9. R. S. Sugirtharajah, editor, *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*, (New York: Orbis, 2006).
10. Loïc J. D. Wicquant, *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*, (Malden, MA: Cambridge, 2008).

Class Requirements and Grading:

Since this class may be taken at different levels of participation, some assignments will be different depending on the level at which it is taken.

1. **Preparation, attendance and participation:** Students are expected to read all textbooks, attend all sessions of the class on time and design and develop a project and complete and submit all assignments as scheduled. Students who attend virtually are required to have the necessary bandwidth to facilitate uninterrupted class participation due to such issues, except in times of emergency. **20%**
2. **Pre-Class Assignment:**
 - 1) **This assignment is a requirement for all participants.**
 - a. Research multiple definitions and meanings of Margins and Marginality.
 - b. Select one or create your own definition of the two terms.
 - c. Read: *Jesus and the Disinherited*, by Howard Thurman. Write a 5-page paper (1 page per chapter) reflecting on Thurman's proposition and its relationship to the issues of margins and marginality using the definitions you have selected as the basis of your work. **20%**
3. **Individual Course Project:**

Each student is required to identify and present one issue of marginalization or one existing program that is present in their community or with which they have some connection, to which they can offer good news through a sermon or biblical presentation.

Students will submit a description of the project along with the sermon that they preach in response to their project. The required outline of the project report will be provided in class prior to the required date. Each student will create and present their project report in class.

20%

4. **Sermons:**

The contents of this course include both theory and practice. The theory involves the readings assigned, presentations and class discussions. The practice encompasses engagement with the persons connected with each student's chosen project (this may be a ministry in your church) and two sermons preached in class directed to that community. In each case the sermon must engage the notions of margins and marginality as it relates to the chosen community and must focus on the plight, presence, and prophetic engagement of marginalization biblically and theologically.

40%

Class Schedule: TBD

Rubrics: TBD

Selected Bibliography

- Aden, LeRoy H. and Robert G. Hughes. *Preaching God's Compassion*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Allen, Donna E. *Towards A Womanist Homiletic: Katie Cannon, Alice Walker and Emancipatory Proclamation*. Peter Lang, 2013.
- Anderson, Cheryl B. *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- _____. *Women, Ideology and Violence: Critical Theory and the Construction of Gender in the Book of the Covenant and the Deuteronomical Law*. London: T&T Clark International, 2004.
- Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2007.
- Bass, Jonathan S. *Blessed are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders, and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail."* Louisiana State University Press, 2009.
- Berry, Wendell. *What Matters? Economics for a Renewed Commonwealth*. Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint, 2010.
- Black, Kathy. *A Healing Homiletic: Preaching and Disability*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Bond, L. Susan. *Trouble with Jesus: Women, Christology and Preaching*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 1999.
- Bouknight, William R. *The Authoritative Word: Preaching Truth in a Skeptical Age*. Nashville Abingdon, 2001
- Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. *Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009.
- _____. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012.

- Brueggemann, Walter. edited by K.C. Hanson. *Embracing the Transformation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Cadences of Home: Preaching among Exiles*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- _____. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- _____. *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press 1986.
- _____. *Peace*: St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2001.
- _____. *Texts That Linger Words That Explode: Listening to Prophetic Voices*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.
- Burghardt, Walter J. *S.J. Preaching the Just Word*. Yale University Press, 1996.
- Brosend, William. *The Preaching of Jesus: Gospel Proclamation, Then and Now*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.
- Butterick, David. *Speaking Conflict: Stories of a Controversial Jesus*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Cannon, Katie G. *Black Womanist Ethics*. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1988.
- Carroll, John T. and James R. Carroll. *Preaching the Hard Saying of Jesus*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.
- Childs, James M. Jr. *Preaching Justice: The Ethical Vocation of Word and Sacrament Ministry*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Trinity Press International, 2000.
- Chomsky, Noam. *Masters of Mankind, Essays and Lectures, 1969-2013*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2014.
- Clader, Linda L. *Voicing the Vision: Imagination and Prophetic Preaching*. Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2003.
- Cone, James H. *Speaking the Truth: Ecumenism, Liberation, and Black Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1986.
- Dally, John Addison. *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*. The Alban Institute, 2008.
- Doan, William and Terry Giles. *Prophets, Performance, and Power: Performance Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark. 2005.
- Ellul, Jacques, translated by Joyce Main Hanks. *The Humiliation of the Word*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985.
- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Mask*. Pluto Press, 1967.
- Felder, Cain Hope, editor. *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- _____. *Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class and Family*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1992.
- Gilbert, Kenyatta R. *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.
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- Hobgood, Mary Elizabeth. *Dismantling Privilege: An Ethics of Accountability*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2000.
- Jones, Major J. *Christian Ethics for Black Theology. The Politics of Liberation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press 1974.

- Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching in an Age of Globalization*: Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.
- Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A. *Refiner's Fire: A Religious Engagement with Violence*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- _____. *Violence and Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.
- Lee, Jung Young. *Marginality: The Key to Multi-cultural Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.
- Long, Michael G. Editor, *Resist! Christian Dissent for the 21st Century*. New York: Orbis Books, 2014.
- McClure, John S. and Nancy J. Ramsey. *Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence*. Cleveland, Ohio: United Church Press, 1998.
- McMickle, Marvin A. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2006.
- Meeks, Wayne A. *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
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- Rose, Lucy Atkinson. *Sharing the Word: Preaching in the Roundtable Church*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
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