

**Alabama Course of Study
Birmingham-Southern College
Spring Session 2020
March 13-14 and April 17-18
Assignments and Course Requirements**

Course: COS 324 – Preaching
Instructor: Dr. Sam Parkes
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Your prework for Session One is to be submitted on the first Friday night of the course. Please staple it to an ALCOS Cover Sheet, following the formatting and file naming conventions at the end of this syllabus. Additional work will be due as described in Mid-Course work below as well as on the second Friday night of the course. This course focuses on preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of proclamation.
2. Exegete a variety of biblical passages for preaching.
3. Evaluate sermons for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, and delivery, and appropriate insights gained from the evaluation of their own sermons.
4. Develop plans for ordering and delivering sermons in their congregational and communal context.

TEXTS

Required:

Hamilton, Adam. *Unleashing the Word: Preaching with Relevance, Purpose, & Passion*. Pap/DVD edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-4267-0700-1

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Cambridge, Mass: Cowley Publications, 1993. ISBN: 978-1-56101-074-5

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Revised and Updated. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-5018-4239-9

Reference:

Allen, O. Wesley, ed. *The Preacher's Bible Handbook*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-664-26307-2

Wilson, Paul Scott, ed. *The New Interpreter's® Handbook of Preaching*. 1st Edition, 1st Printing edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-687-05556-2

Suggested:

Brown, Teresa L. Fry. *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation*. Edited by Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

Jacobsen, David Schnasa, and Robert Allen Kelly. *Kairos Preaching: Speaking Gospel to the Situation*. Fortress Press, 2009.

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

Thomas, Frank A. *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.

Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching without Notes*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *Setting Words on Fire: Putting God at the Center of the Sermon*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2016.

Lectionary Passages:

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-course:

- Plan to preach on March 22 or March 29 in your regular setting. If you are on a church staff, please work this out with your senior pastor. Let me know immediately if you have problems arranging this.
- Read part one of *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Write two reflection papers, one on the chapter regarding "Preaching" and the other on "Imagination". These papers should each be one to two pages in length. See guidance on reflection papers below.
- Read pages 1-143 (Introduction, Sections I-III) in *The Four Pages of the Sermon*.
- Choose ONE of the passages from the lectionary Sundays listed above. Using the methodology in *Four Pages* please prepare the following assignments using that ONE passage as the basis for your work.
 - Complete the Concerns of the Text assignment found on pages 30-35 of *Four Pages*.

- Complete the exegesis assignment found in *Four Pages* on pages 36-41. Or, you can click here to download a digital copy that you can type into:
 - bit.ly/exegesis-ALCOS
- Bring a theme sentence for your sermon that aligns with Wilson's suggestions found on pages 42-48 of *Four Pages*.

Session One: March 13-14

- On Friday night you will turn in the reflection paper and a copy of the Concerns of the Text and Exegesis assignments to me. We will review the following material
 - The Definition of a Sermon
 - The Marks of a Good Sermon
 - Where *Four Pages* Comes From
 - The Elements of Sermon Unity
 - Preaching to the Whole Person
- On Saturday, we will begin sermon work in earnest. We will discuss, among other things,
 - Introductions and conclusions
 - Sources of trouble and grace
 - Finding a controlling image for the sermon
 - Transitions
 - How to make a sermon “stick” with your listeners.
- We will begin writing the sermons you will preach very soon.

Mid-course:

- Read pages 147-254 (Sections IV-VI) in *Four Pages*.
- Write a sermon formed by the *Four Pages* method using the passage that you chose and have been working with on the first weekend. A manuscript is NOT required, but the sermon should still use the *Four Page* format. If, however, you do use a manuscript, please submit it along with the video as per below.
- Preach that sermon during your normative worship service, making a VIDEO recording. You can use a phone or tablet camera just fine, just ensure that the camera is close enough to your voice or a speaker to catch decent audio. This doesn't have to be professional quality, but I'd like to see at least your full upper body. Tripods with cell phone holders and extendable legs are available on Amazon for less than \$20. This is a good thing to purchase for future use!
- Upload your recording to a video-hosting site such as YouTube and send me the URL link to the sermon along with any manuscript that you might have **NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT APRIL 10.**
- Read the chapter on “Weddings and Funerals” in Hamilton's book *Unleashing the Word*. Write a one-page reflection on each.
- Between April 10 and 17, please watch the sermon recordings of all your classmates AND YOUR OWN. Make a preliminary evaluation using the instrument I will provide.

Session Two: April 17-18

- Most of our class time will be taken in reviewing the sermons you have preached. We will provide encouraging feedback that identifies the strengths of each sermon. We will also offer constructive criticism aimed to improve preaching excellence.

Post-course:

- The post-course assignment will be given out at the second session.

Grading System:

Pre-Course Work	25%
Sermon	25%
Class Participation – Sermon Feedback	25%
Post-course Work	25%

PRE-COURSE / MID-COURSE / POST-COURSE WORK POLICY

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All Pre-Course and Mid-Course work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late Pre-Course/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:
 1. **Pre-Course/Mid-Course** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**.
 2. **Pre-Course/Mid-Course** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**.
 3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of “F” will be given in the course.
 4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**

HOW TO WRITE A REFLECTION PAPER:

A good reflection paper for an academic setting will accomplish two things:

- Reveal that you are familiar with the assigned text.
- Reveal points of personal connection/reflection on how that material relates to your understanding, experience, or practice of **preaching**. This is a course on preaching. I want to see how this material intersects with preaching, not some other aspect of ministry, as valuable as that might be.

So, do this:

- Read the assigned material carefully.
- Which of the authors ideas “get to” you? The instructor has assigned these texts because he believes that they have positive value for preaching. Feel free to be a little critical of the author’s perspectives or ideas, but not the author themselves. Focus on their ideas and how those ideas connect with, inform, or correct your approach to gospel proclamation.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT AND FILE NAME CONVENTIONS

I know that you are all wonderfully creative people! However, I would prefer that you reserve your creativity for your assignment content and not its appearance. When you submit written work, I respectfully request that you observe the following formatting guidelines.

- Please submit your work as an MS Word (.docx) file or as a Google doc. If you prefer to share a link to the files rather than attaching, that is fine.
- Type in 12pt Times New Roman. Nothing else.
- Double-space everything except sermon manuscripts.
- At the top, left hand corner of the first page use the following titles in bolded 12pt Times New Roman

Sam Parkes
Assignment Title
ALCOS 324
Spring 2020

- Insert page numbers on the bottom right of every page of your assignment preceded by your last name, e.g. Parkes 1 or Parkes – 1
- When you save your assignment, please use the following filename convention:
 - Last Name – Assignment Title – ALCOS 324.docx
 - Ex: Sam Parkes – Exegesis Assignment – ALCOS 324.docx

You do me a huge favor by following these guidelines. You save me more time than you could imagine having to rename your files so that I know what I’m looking for in my drive, knowing who wrote what I’m looking at, having to double space your papers so that I have room for comments. It’s a lot. And I’m grateful for your help.

Birmingham-Southern College's ranking in the 2020 edition of Best Colleges is National Liberal Arts Colleges, #140. Its tuition and fees are \$18,238. Explore Birmingham-Southern College. Scores for either the ACT or SAT test are due April 1. It is more selective, with an acceptance rate of 57 percent. For more information about the tests, essays, interviews and admissions process, visit the Applying to College knowledge center. Selectivity. Birmingham-Southern College offers a number of student services, including nonremedial tutoring, placement service, health service, health insurance. Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) is a private liberal arts college in Birmingham, Alabama, United States. Founded in 1856, the college is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). More than 1300 students from 33 states and 16 foreign countries attend the college.[1] Birmingham-Southern has a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, and 96% of full-time faculty hold a doctorate or the highest degree in their field.[2]. YouTube Encyclopedic. 1/4. Last day to add or drop courses for Spring. Last day to file an Application to Graduate for students wishing to graduate in May. 29. Course withdrawal period begins (no tuition refund). Last day to withdraw from a Spring course with a WP/WF grade; must submit appropriate paperwork to the Registrar's Office by 5:00 pm. Last day to withdraw from the College for Spring; must file the appropriate paperwork by 5:00 pm. 20. Last day for graduate students to submit Master's Theses/Projects to Graduate Studies Office for May degree candidates. Last day for Summer graduating students to register for summer classes in order to be reviewed to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. Last day to file an Application to Graduate for students wishing to graduate in August.