



Draft Syllabus, Subject to Change

MNST 5115: Preaching the Word

January 2024

Meeting Times: Monday – Friday | January 8 – 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CT - (one hour lunch break)

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Catherine W. Gilliard, Adjunct Faculty

cgilliard@northpark.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Student will learn basic skills in oral communication fundamentals of expository sermon preparation, and develop sensitivity to the liturgical, social, and cultural contexts in which preaching takes place. This course explores how proper hermeneutics drive the sermon to produce a clear exegetical idea from the biblical text to lay the foundation for the development of the homiletical idea (Big Idea) for the sermon.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

MNST 5115 students will:

1. Identify their personal hermeneutics and compare it to a variety of hermeneutical models
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze scripture for the development of a preaching outline
3. Create a systematic approach to formulating an exegetical and homiletical outline
4. Recognize the basic steps in composing an expository, topical, and textual sermon
5. Understand the foundation for sermon delivery

REQUIRED TEXTS

Fry Brown, Teresa L. *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation*, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Fortress Press, 2008

Wilson, Paul Scott *The Practice of Preaching Revised Edition*, Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2007

Thomas, Frank A. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching*, Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2013

McKenzie, Alyce M. *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*, Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010

Thomas, Frank A. *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2018

Gilliard, Dominique DuBois *Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Reflective, 2021

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE

1. Read required class texts - 30 points per book - **Total 180 points**
2. Write book reflection – 20 points per book – **Total 120 points**
3. Post and engage w/classmates online on an assigned question – **Total 100 points**
4. Complete a research paper based on lectures and books - **Total 150 points**



5. Preach four sermons - two in class, two recorded – 50 pts each - **Total 200 points**
6. Provide written evaluations on sermons preached by classmates - **Total 50 points**
7. Comprehension Quizzes - 20 points each - **Total 100 points**
8. Class Attendance – **Total 100 points**

Total of 1000 points

1000 – 901 points	A
900 - 801 points	B
800 –701 points	C
700 - 601 points	D
600 – below	F

- Prepare for each class session by reading the assigned texts and completing the pre-work assigned for each class.
- Read these first five books on the syllabus before January 3, 2024 - (**Fry Brown, Teresa L.** *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation* | **Wilson, Paul Scott** *The Practice of Preaching Revised Edition* | **Thomas, Frank A.** *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching* | **McKenzie, Alyce M.** *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons* | **Thomas, Frank A.** *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*)
- Complete a separate 3-page double spaced (max. 750 words) book reflection on each of the first five books by January 6, 2024 comparing the author's methods and models to your current practice and highlight a new method or model you would like to try.
- In-class sermons given on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 and Friday, January 12, 2024
- Bring a Bible (Old and New Testament) to each class – translation of your choice – inclusive language required. Bring a smart phone to record in-class sermons on Tuesday and Friday.
- Read the remaining book by January 19, 2024 – **Gilliard, Dominique DuBois** *Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege*.
- Complete a separate 3-page double spaced (max. 750 words) book reflection on the remaining book by January 24, 2024, describing how the author's exegetical read of scripture gives new insights to your current practice of preaching on people in scripture for today's listeners.
- Recorded sermons are due on February 2, 2024 and on February 16, 2024.
- Research paper due February 21, 2024 – Six pages – doubled spaced (max. 1500 words) Incorporate how course readings and class presentations influence your oral communication fundamentals of expository sermon preparation. Include how class materials will be used to guide your development and sensitivity to the liturgical, social, and cultural contexts in which your preaching will take place. A minimum of 10 references from the required texts, cited correctly, is required. Also include how a proper hermeneutic drives the sermon to produce a clear exegetical idea from the biblical text to lay the foundation for the development of the homiletical idea for the sermon.
- Comprehension quizzes are given daily during J-term class schedule.
- Participation in small group activities during class is required for attendance credit.
- Post online responses to the sermon question and respond to two classmates' posts. Each response should be substantive (see rubric) and a maximum of 150 words.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

1. Attendance & participation.

This intensive course is 5 days in the classroom from 8:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m. CT. Attendance credit means being present for a full day of instruction. Exceptions can be granted in case of emergency, but only with proper and prior communication with the instructor at cgilliard@northpark.edu.

2. Submission

- Submit all work through Canvas as Word files. Include your last name and page number on each page of the document.
- All submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. CT on the date indicated. Work submitted late without prior arrangement with the instructor will receive a 1/3 grade reduction for each day (e.g., an A grade would receive A- after one day late, B+ after two, etc.). Work submitted over two weeks late will not receive credit.

3. Communication

- Email any questions or concerns at cgilliard@northpark.edu. Expect a response Monday – Friday. Before emailing a question, please be sure the answer isn't already contained in the course syllabus or assessment guidelines on Canvas.
- Students are to communicate verbally and in written form using the inclusive language policy found in the [Student Writing Handbook](#).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
5. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

ACCOMMODATIONS

North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email ada@northpark.edu or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by The Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu) for information about reporting, campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to

the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu. Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information and further details.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

In-class Schedule	Due Dates	Assignments
Pre-class work	January 3, 2024 January 6, 2024	Read the first five books for J-term in-class sessions First five book reflections due one per book 750 word max
Day 1 - Monday	January 8, 2024	<i>Delivering the Sermon</i> by Brown Book Reflection Review Sensitivity to liturgical, social, and cultural contexts Small group activity Comprehensive Quiz
Day 2 - Tuesday	January 9, 2024	<i>The Practice of Preaching</i> by Wilson Book Reflection Review Analyzing scripture development of a preaching outline In-class sermons Comprehensive Quiz
Day 3 - Wednesday	January 10, 2024	<i>They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching</i> by Thomas Book Reflection Review The foundation for sermon delivery Small group activity Comprehensive Quiz
Day 4 - Thursday	January 11, 2024	<i>Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons</i> by McKenzie Book Reflection Review Creative steps in an expository, topical, and textual sermons Small group activity Comprehensive Quiz
Day 5 - Friday	January 12, 2024	<i>How to Preach A Dangerous Sermon</i> by Thomas Identify personal hermeneutics In-class sermons Comprehensive Quiz
Post-class work	January 19, 2024 January 24, 2024 February 2, 2024 February 16, 2024 February 21, 2024	Complete remaining assigned book <i>Subversive Witness</i> by Gilliard Write book reflection 750 word max. First recorded sermon due Second recorded sermon due Research paper due 1500 word max.



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