

BUCKEYE BRETHREN INSTITUTE
SYLLABUS: Preaching
FALL TERM 2025

INSTRUCTOR: Tina Hunt

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DATES & TIMES: (2025—Fridays) September 12 and 26 and October 10; 9:30am - 3:30 pm with an hour planned for lunch at approximately 12 noon.

LOCATION: NOCOB District Office, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805. This class will be taught with in-person and Zoom options available.

PURPOSE: This course will discuss the differing ways in which sermons are prepared and presented within a Sunday morning worship setting. It will also give the student an opportunity to preach and evaluate sermons with peer feedback.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of this unit, the student will:

- A. Be familiar with at least three ways of constructing a sermon and the values and limitations of each.
- B. Be familiar with the lectionary recommended by the Church of the Brethren and with the use of the lectionary as a resource for preaching.
- C. Become familiar with available resources for constructing a sermon. This includes commentaries, Bible helps, on-line resources and current scholarship.
- D. Develop sermons that are part of an overall worship flow.
- E. Develop discernment skills that allow one to understand congregational needs in the area of preaching.
- F. Be able to demonstrate skills in preaching. This will include practice sermons observed by fellow students.
- G. Be able to identify one's preferred preaching style with an understanding of both the strengths and limitations.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The Bible
2. **Living Water for Thirsty Souls: Unleashing the Power of Exegetical Preaching**, by Marvin A. McMickle, Judson Press, 2001 ISBN: 978-0817013585
3. **A Lay Preacher's Guide, How to Craft A Faithful Sermon**, Karoline M. Lewis, Fortress Press, 2020, ISBN 978-1-5046-6273-8
4. Miscellaneous articles on preaching provided by instructor.

These are not required reading, but have been used in preparation for this class. Books I will be referring to and drawing on for class discussion are:

-What's the Matter With Preaching Today? Edited by Mike Graves, Westminster John Knox Press, 2004

-Essentials for Biblical Preaching, An Introduction to Basic Sermon Preparation, Al Fasol, Baker Book House, 1989.

-Anabaptist Preaching, A Conversation Between Pulpit, Pew, and Bible, edited by David B. Greiser and Michael A. King, Cascadia Publishing House, 2003.

-Gennifer Benjamin Brooks, Unexpected Grace, The Pilgrim Press, 2012.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- attendance at all classes
- engaged participation in all class activities
- complete reading assignments as scheduled
- complete the writing assignments to be submitted as scheduled
- complete a reading log documenting all reading done for this class

In case of a participant needs to miss a class (due to illness or scheduling), to receive credit for the class the participant will need to watch the class recording (all classes are recorded off Zoom). Additionally they will have to choose three (3) points of class discussion to react to and share their reaction in a paper.

If a participant has to miss more than one class (2) they will not receive credit for the course and will be required to retake the course.

CLASS OUTLINE:

1. OUR FIRST CLASS: (September 12, 2025)

In our first class, we will discuss: use of the lectionary; types of sermons; elements of sermons;

2. OUR SECOND CLASS - (September 26, 2025)

In our second class, we will discuss: preaching difficult sermons; Anabaptist preaching; cross-cultural preaching; specific sermon preparation styles (including planning ahead)

3. OUR THIRD CLASS – (October 10, 2025)

In our third class, we will present, listen, and critique each other;

SESSION ASSIGNMENTS:

Due 9/12/25

Bring to Class: A list of the preachers who have impacted you spiritually and in your preaching.

Reading: Thirsty Souls, Chapters 1-3 (pages 1-67); Lay Guide Introduction and Chapter 1-2 (pages 1-40)

Response Paper: Write a reflection on what you think is a good sermon, and why you think that. Respond to Lewis' description of a sermon not being "informative but transformative (page 1 and 2)."

Due 9/26/25

Bring to Class: A list of specific things you have heard in sermons that you wished you could address with the preacher (examples: questionable interpretation; shakes theology; cultural insensitivity...)

Reading: Thirsty Souls, Chapters 4-6 (pages 68-131); Lay Guide Chapters 3-5 (pages 40-86)

Response Paper: What things about your audience should you take into consideration as you prepare your messages? or How do you handle challenging passages in scripture? or

Due 10/10/25

Bring to Class: A potential sermon series;

Reading: Thirsty Souls, Chapters 7-9 (pages 132-199); Lay Guide Chapters 6-8 (pages 87-134)

Be ready to present a 5 minute message to the class.

All assignments, including a log recording everything read and used for research, will be due the week after the last class.

ETHICS AND EXPECTATIONS:

This course complies with the Brethren Academy and BBI Policy on Citation Style and Plagiarism as described below:

“Integrity is central to life in community. In the Christian academic community, integrity means giving proper credit to people for the ideas and information we receive from them. It also means that the work we submit and represent as our own is really work we ourselves have done.

The Church of the Brethren 2008 Annual Conference Ethics in Ministry Paper (2008) Part III Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders states: ‘I will give credit for all sources quoted or extensively paraphrased in sermons and prepared papers. I will honor all copyrights ’(p. 8, Letter M).

“Plagiarism is using the work of other people without giving them credit, whether in written assignments, oral reports and sermons. The consequences for plagiarism will vary according to the extent of the offense. These may range from rewriting the assignment, non-crediting the assignment, or non-crediting the course.”

Instructor’s instructions and expectations for papers

Use a 12pt font. (Times New Roman, Calibri, Ariel)

Double space all documents and indent each new paragraph.

Demonstrate your understanding of the material—do not merely rehash.

Cite all sources within the document.

Putting quotes around a bunch of words without attribution is unacceptable.