This is an introductory preaching course, which claims that women bring specific gifts to the pulpit, and that they have faced significant barriers to the pulpit through the centuries. Like many basic preaching courses, students will be presented with material about use of the Bible, the place of preaching in worship, goals of preaching, and a specific technique for sermon construction. You will be expected to attend lectures, participate in discussions, and read material, including sermons, each week. The one significant difference in this class is, all the lectures, sermons, and other required reading materials, have been written by women. Our focus will be on the gifts of women, and not the difficulties, although we will also acknowledge the sexism women have faced (and continue to battle) in the Church. Although we will claim there are no universal female characteristics, we will acknowledge there are certain gifts, traits, and ways of being and knowing that are recognized as common to many women, even as we also claim gender is not absolute. In addition to reading and written assignments, each student will be preaching three times in the semester. Although not required, you may turn in a sermon sketch for comments the week (or more) before you preach. You are required to use and turn in a full manuscript each day you preach. If cost of books or the library’s schedule makes it difficult for you to fulfill course requirements, please see me.

**Required books:**

*Trouble with Jesus: Women, Christology, Preaching*, L. Susan Bond

*Women: To Preach or Not to Preach*, Ella Pearson Mitchell, ed.

*Preaching at the Double Feast*, Michael Monshau, O.P., ed.

*Women’s Bible Commentary*, Carol Newsom and Sharon Ringe, eds.

There are several additional required articles from books on reserve in the library for the sessions we look at the place of preaching in worship. You will benefit from acquainting yourself with the books on reserve, which include:


*Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America 1740-1845*, Catherine Brekus

*Weary Throats and New Songs*, Teresa Fry Brown

*African American Christian Worship*, Melva Costen

*The Book of Women’s Sermons: Hearing God in Each Other’s Voice*, Lee Hancock, ed.

*Feminism and Christianity: An Essential Guide*, Lynn Japinga

*Women Preaching: Theology and Practice through the Ages*, Eunjoo Mary Kim

*Feminist Theology from the Third World*, Ursula King, ed.


*In Her Own Rite: Constructing Feminist Liturgical Tradition*, Marjorie Procter-Smith

*The Whispered Word: A Theology of Preaching*, Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

*Christian Worship in Reformed Churches Past and Present*, Lukas Vischer, ed.

*A History of Women in Christian Worship*, Susan J. White

*Righteous Content: Black Women’s Perspectives of Church and Faith*, Daphne Wiggins
Course requirements:
In addition to the reading assignments listed, you are asked to read at least one sermon by a woman each week. *The Book of Women’s Sermons* is on reserve. There are many other options in the library and bookstore, such as several volumes of *Those Preachin’ Women*, edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell; and *The Abingdon Women’s Preaching Annual* (Year A). Let me know if you have trouble finding sermons. I can place additional books on reserve.

2 page reflection paper: *To Preach or Not to Preach*. Due September 11.
Ungraded 2 page theology of preaching paper. Due September 18.
2 page reaction paper: *Trouble with Jesus*. Due November 6.
In class responses to colleagues’ sermons.
3 sermons, preached in class, full manuscripts turned in the day you preach.
Make sure you keep track of the scriptures you sign up for.

Grades will be based on:
Each sermon will be 25%
The 2 graded papers & your class participation
(eespecially responses to colleagues’ sermons): 25%

Please keep me informed if you must miss class. The readings alone will not provide sufficient material for preparing your sermons. In addition, your colleagues need our full attendance in the congregation for their preaching. We will have a conversation about inviting others to listen.

Class Schedule
Sept 4 Introductions; Women’s Voices/ Women’s Lenses; The Gifts of Women, in the World, Church, and in the Pulpit. Time of Commitment.
Assignment for next class: Read Women: *To Preach or Not* (Only female authors).
Write 2 page reflection paper showing you have read them.

Sept 11 The Power of Language; Female Preaching Traits, Choosing First Scriptures for Preaching. Introduction to the Theology of Preaching.
Mitchell reaction paper due today.
Assignment for next class: Read Bond, p. 1-37; and read Clader, p 194-223, in Monshau. Prepare 2 page paper offering your theology of preaching. If you jump ahead and also read Bond, p. 109-150, you might get some help on your paper (but remember this is your theology of preaching not hers).

Sept 18 Theology of Preaching, continued. The Place of Preaching in Worship.
Beginning Structures for Sermons.
Turn in 2 page theology of preaching (it will not be graded).
Sept 25 Structures for Sermons.  
Assignment for next class: Read Mulligan, p. 46-73, in Monshau. Reread notes from class. Read commentary from Newsom and Ringe on your scripture. Begin thinking through structures for preaching your scripture. Be prepared to work on structures in class.

October 2 Writing Structures for Sermons, In-Class Exercise. Beginning Moves.  
Assignment for next class: Construct several structures for your first sermon; explain why you are choosing the one you are. Read Bond, p. 151-182.

Oct 9 Moves for Sermons. Turn in structures assignment (these will not be graded).  
Assignment for next class: Work on constructing move chart of theology, images, and roadblocks for moves from your structure. Finish reading Bond, p.151-182. 
You might want to prepare Bond reflection paper, due Nov. 6. Read Mulligan, p. 74-103, in Monshau

Oct 16 Reading Week – no class  

Oct 23 Writing Moves for Preaching; In-Class Exercises.  
Assignment for next class: Prepare sermons for preaching. You may turn in sketches for comments by email until noon, Oct. 21. I will respond by Oct. 24. The earlier you submit the sketch, the earlier I can respond.

Oct 30 Preaching 1; sign up for second sermon scripture. Introductions and Conclusions  
Assignment for next class: Prepare reflection paper on Bond book. In light of the comments from instructor and colleagues about your preaching, formulate questions you may still have about the system Make sure to raise them in class.

November 6 Review System. Answer Questions (make sure you ask them); Reviewing Structures and Moves, Introductions and Conclusions.  
Response to Bond due today.  
Assignment for next class: Review notes and make sure your questions have been raised. 
Be preparing sermon 2. Make sure you have read your passage’s exegesis in Newsom and Ringe.

Nov 13 Sermon Responses. Addressing Additional Questions.  
Assignment for next class: Be working on sermon. You may also wish to read Mulligan, p. 103-109, in Monshau. You may turn in sketches for comments by email until 5pm Nov 19. I will respond by Nov 26.
Nov 20   Guest lecturer

Nov 27   Reading Week – no class
         What do you preach to those without Thanksgiving?

December 4  Preaching 2; Sign up for Final Sermon. Question and answers about the system.

Dec 11   Weddings and Funerals, Anything extra Women Need to Know? Final Review of Structures and Moves. Summarizing the System;
         Assignment for next class: Prepare final sermons. Sketches may be turned in (none accepted after today); email responses to you by December 13.

Dec 18   Preaching 3 (in lieu of final exam).