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:
Dissident Daughters: Feminist Liturgies in Global Context, Teresa Berger, ed.
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 C). 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 January 27.
Ungraded 2 page theology of preaching paper. Due February 3.
2 page reaction paper: Trouble with Jesus. Due either March 17 or 24.
In class responses to colleagues’ sermons.
3 sermons, (at least 2 preached in class), full manuscripts (& original theology of preaching paper) 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 (especially 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

January 20 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.

January 27 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 a 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).

Turn in 2 page theology of preaching (it will not be graded).
February 10  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.

February 17 Ash Wednesday  Writing Structures for Sermons, In-Class Exercise.  
**Beginning Moves.**  
**Assignment for next class (March 3):** Construct several structures for your first sermon; explain why you are choosing the one you are. If you email your structure assignment to me by February 24, I will respond by the 3rd, so you can be working on your moves, too. You might read ahead in Bond, p. 151-182.

February 24  Reading Week. No class.  
Be thinking through where you hope the congregation will go as a result of your sermon. Make sure the structure you have constructed takes them there. You might want to work on the Bond reflection paper.

March 3  Moves for Sermons. **Turn in structures assignment** (these will not be graded but you must turn them in).  
**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 either March 17 or 24 (whichever date you are not preaching).  
Read Mulligan, p. 74-103, in Monshau

March 10  Writing Moves for Preaching; In-Class Exercises. Introductions & conclusions.  
**Assignment for next class:** Prepare sermons for preaching. You may turn in sketches for comments by email until 3:00, March 11; I will respond by March 14. The earlier you submit the sketch, the earlier I can respond.

March 17  Preaching 1; Those not preaching today, **turn in Bond reflection.** All sign up for second sermon scripture.  
**Assignment for next class:** Prepare either sermon or reflection paper on Bond book. In light of your reading as well as comments from instructor and colleagues about your preaching, formulate questions you may still have about the system. Make sure to raise them in class or send to professor via email.

March 24  Preaching 1; those not preaching today, **turn in Bond reflection.**  
**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 (as well as other commentaries). Email any final questions to professor.
March 31  Easter recess. No class.

April 7  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 noon, April 12. I will respond by April 15.

April 14  Breather week. Make good use of it for sermon 2 and 3.

April 21  Preaching 2; Sign up for Final Sermon. Question and answers about the system.

April 28  Preaching 2. Wedding and funeral hand-outs; Anything extra women need to know? Final review. Summarizing the system.
       **Assignment for final class:** Prepare final sermons. Sketches may be turned in until noon, April 29th; email response to you by May 2.

May 5  Preaching 3 (in lieu of final exam).