This is an introductory preaching course, which begins with the acknowledgment of the specific gifts women bring to the pulpit, as well as the barriers they have faced through the centuries. Like many basic preaching courses, students will be presented with material about use of the Bible, 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 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 women, even as we also claim gender is not absolute. In addition to reading and written assignments, each student, male and female, will be preaching twice in the semester. Although not required, you may turn in a sermon sketch for comments the week (or more) before you preach. A full manuscript is required the day you preach.

Required books:
- *Women: To Preach or Not to Preach*, Ella Pearson Mitchell, ed.
- *Feminist Theology from the Third World*, Ursula King, ed.
- *Trouble with Jesus: Women, Christology, Preaching*, L. Susan Bond
- *The Book of Women’s Sermons: Hearing God in Each Other’s Voice*, Lee Hancock, ed.

There are several additional required articles on reserve in the library for the sessions we look at exegesis. You will benefit from acquainting yourself with the books on reserve. If cost of books or the library’s schedule makes it difficult for you to fulfill course requirements, please see me.

Course requirements:
In addition to the reading assignments listed, you are asked to read at least one sermon by a woman each week. You have *The Book of Women’s Sermons. Those Preachin’ Women*, edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell; *The Abingdon Women’s Preaching Annual*; and another volume or two of sermons are on reserve. There are many other options in the library and bookstore.

2 page reaction paper: *To Preach or Not to Preach*. Due Jan. 28.

4-5 page exegesis paper on chosen Scripture, which demonstrates you have read in King, and the reserve articles by Weems and Martin. Due Feb 18.

Scripture__________________________

2 page reaction paper: *Trouble with Jesus*. Due April 8.
2 sermons, preached in class, full manuscripts turned in the day you preach.
Scripture____________________________

In class responses to colleagues’ sermons.

7-8 page Theology of Preaching paper, in lieu of final exam. Due 6:00, May 6.

You need to provide a videotape, so your sermon can be taped for conversation and review.

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.

N.b.: There is a scheduled Word and Table worship each Wednesday at 4:30. There may be reason to discuss something from it, so attend if you can.

Class Schedule

January 21  Introductions, Women’s voices; 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).


February 18  Beginning Structures for sermons. **Exegesis paper due today.**

**Assignment:** Reread notes from class. Begin thinking through structures for preaching your Scripture. Be prepared to work on structures in class.

February 25  Writing Structures for preaching; in class exercises.

**Assignment:** Come up with several structures for your Scripture. Be reading Bond, p.151-182.

March 4  Moves for sermons.

**Assignment:** Reread notes from class. Begin graphing theology, images, and roadblocks for moves in your sermon. Be prepared to work on moves in class. Don’t forget Bond, p.151-182.

March 11  Reading Week (no class)

March 18  Writing Moves for preaching; in class exercises. Some time will be spent on sermon delivery.

**Assignment:** Prepare sermons for preaching. You may turn in sketches for comments until noon, March 20. I will return them by March 21 to CTS mailboxes, or US mail. Make arrangements if you want an e-mail conversation.

March 25  Preaching 1 – bring blank video tape, meet in Library, lower level.

April 1  Preaching 1 – bring blank video tape, meet in Library, lower level.

April 8  Summarizing the system; Weddings and funerals, anything extra women need to know? **Response to Bond Due.** Sketches may be turned in for comments, returned by April 11.

**Assignment:** Prepare sermons for preaching.

April 15  Holy Week (no class).

April 22  Preaching II – Library, lower level.

April 29  Preaching II – Library, lower level.

May 6  **Theology of preaching paper due by 6:00 pm.**