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, male and female, 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.

Required books:
Trouble with Jesus: Women, Christology, Preaching, L. Susan Bond
Women: To Preach or Not to Preach, Ella Pearson Mitchell, 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
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
African American Christian Worship, Melva Costen
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

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. *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 B). Let me know if you have trouble finding sermons. I can place additional books on reserve.

Ungraded 2 page theology of preaching paper. Due Feb. 2.
Ungraded 2 page paper on women, preaching, and worship. Due Feb. 9.
2 page reaction paper: *Trouble with Jesus*. Due March 23.
In class responses to colleagues’ sermons.
3 sermons, preached in class, full manuscripts turned in the day you preach.

Scripture ____________________________
Scripture ____________________________
Scripture ____________________________

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 19   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). Write 2 page reflection paper showing you have read them.

January 26   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. Prepare 2 page paper offering your theology of preaching. If you jump ahead to read Bond, p. 109-150, you might get some help on your paper.

February 2   Theology of Preaching, continued. The Place of Preaching in Worship.
Turn in 2 page theology of preaching (it will not be graded).
February 9  Beginning Structures for Sermons.
   Turn in 2 page paper on women, preaching, and worship (not graded).
   Assignment for next class: 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 16 Writing Structures for Sermons, In-Class Exercise.
   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.

February 23 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 March 23.

March 2 Reading Week – no class

March 9 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, March 10. I will respond by March 13.
   The earlier you submit the sketch, the earlier I can respond.

March 16 Preaching 1; sign up for second sermon scripture.
   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.

March 23 Finish Preaching 1; Answering 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.

   Assignment for next class: Prepare sermons for preaching. Make sure you have read your
   passage’s exegesis in Newsom and Ringe. You may turn is sketches for
   comments by email until noon April 1. I will respond by April 4.

April 6 Preaching 2; Sign up for Final Sermon.

April 13 Holy Week – no class

April 20 Instructor away
   Assignment for next class: Be working on final sermon.

April 27 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 May 1.

May 4 Preaching 3 (in lieu of final exam).