

Syllabus for
PRM 664—Black Preaching in the African-American Tradition
Credit Hours 3.0
Spring 2000

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through the use of textbooks, lectures, audiovisual materials, and discussions with students and with noted local personalities, this course will explore major styles and methods of black preaching. It will examine the techniques used to create an experience that appeals to a worshiper who functions spiritually from a black Christian perspective. Thus, the worshiper relates the Word of God to every aspect of his or her life. Also, an exploration will be made of the major parts of preaching that, regardless of ethnic origin, distinguish preaching.

II. COURSE GOALS

- A. Understand and articulate the power of black preaching, as demonstrated through imagination, biblical storytelling, translating folk culture and language, dialogue, and celebration.
- B. Understand and articulate the sustaining power of black preaching, as the source for organizing the black church and for nurturing a determined people in a seemingly hopeless situation.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student should:

- A. understand and articulate what distinguishes preaching from a speech—with special emphasis on the traditional Black Model in preaching in comparison with other ethnic preaching in comparison with other ethnic preaching.
- B. articulate a knowledge of the source of black preaching, which was an attempt of the African Diaspora to understand the Christian gospel in the New World.
- C. understand and articulate how one may discern and adjust black preaching methods and styles to possible shifting emphases and needs of Christian worshipers, as they seek to function and worship from an African-American perspective in the 21st century.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required
Celebration and Experience in Preaching, Henry Mitchell
- B. Recommended Collateral Reading
 1. The Recovery of Preaching, Henry Mitchell
 2. How Shall We Preach?, Gardner C. Taylor
 3. The Scarlet Thread, Gardner C. Taylor
 4. My Moral Odyssey, Samuel D. Proctor
 5. How Shall They Hear?, Samuel D. Proctor
 6. Preaching About Crisis in the Community, Samuel D. Proctor

7. Images of the Black Preacher, Beecher Hicks
8. Preaching Through a Storm, Beecher Hicks
9. The Soul of the Black Preacher, Joseph Johnson
10. How to Preach More Powerful Sermons, Homer K. Buerlein
11. The Anatomy of Preaching, David L. Larsen
12. Fundamentals of Preaching, John Killenger
13. The Mystery of Preaching, James Blackwood
14. Biblical Preaching for Today's World, Lloyd Perry

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.

B. School of Theology Policies and procedures

1. Completion of a course

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes

An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes.

The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. Examinations

Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present

(such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).

A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$25 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty).

Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions will automatically result in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions will automatically result in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions will result in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions will automatically result in a **grade of F**.

The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following breaks or holidays. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.** Students are expected to remain for the entire class session. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Three sermons	25%
Term paper	25%
Two examinations	50%

2. Other Information:

1. "Consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ORU ensures that no "qualified individual" will be denied reasonable accommodation in the form of modification of policies, practices and/or procedures." Students with disabilities who wish to access services should contact their professor(s) and the Office of Disability Services at Ext. 7355 to initiate the process.

2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it be in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
3. Weekly sessions will include:
 - (1) lecture by professor
 - (2) group discussion
 - (3) audiovisual model of a style of black preaching
 - (4) student's demonstration of his or her preaching style
 - (5) occasional visit by an outstanding preacher of a style of black preaching

V. COURSE CALENDAR

- A. Introduction: Week one through week five.
 What is preaching?
 What is black preaching?
 What are some of the characteristics of black preaching?
 What are some of the roles of ministry demonstrated by black preaching?
 What is the historical reference for black preaching?
- B. What are some of the major styles of black preaching? Week six through week ten.
 Traditional/Preaching
 Moderate/Preaching
 Liberal/Preaching
 Pentecostal/Preaching
 Evaluating the effectiveness of black preaching/Preaching (film: Martin Luther King Jr.)
- C. What are some of the major methods of preaching? Week eleven through thirteen.
 1. Lectionary
 2. Doctrinal
 3. Expository
 4. Topical, concept, or theme
 5. Character
 6. Liturgical
 7. Textual

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS**

PRM 664
Course #

Black Preaching in the African-American Tradition Dr. James
Title of Course Instructor

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word “Wholeness.” ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Development | 6. Valuing in Decision-making |
| 2. Physical Development | 7. Social Interaction |
| 3. Communication | 8. Global Perspectives |
| 4. Analysis | 9. Effective Citizenship |
| 5. Problem Solving | 10. Aesthetic Responsiveness |

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Spiritual formation/leadership:

Demonstrates Spirit-filled, biblically-theologically competent and historically informed church leadership.

Critical thinking/analysis/ problem solving:

Understands and applies biblical/theological principles in the practice of ministry.

Communication/social interaction/global perspective:

Demonstrates the ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural texts.

Value/ethics/decision-making:

Integrates Judeo-Christian values and ethics in personal life and ministry.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Possess a booklet that will be the culmination of classroom notes to specific questions, which will constitute the two classroom examinations. Demonstrate and develop ones method or style through weekly preaching and worship.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OUTCOMES

Stimuli:

Three preaching sermons
Term paper
Two examination

Criteria:

Three preaching sermons	25%
Term paper	25%
Two examination	50%

A GUIDE TO WRITING A BOOK REVIEW

One of your assignments this semester will be to choose one (1) book that both interests you and is relevant to this course, read it carefully, and write a brief (500 to 750 words) review of it. The following notes should aid you in composing your review.

I. Introductory Statement (25 percent)

About one-fourth of your review (100-150 words) should be devoted to a concise but informative description of what the book is about. Rather than an exhaustive, chapter-by-chapter summary of the contents, you should tell the reader something about the major points of the book, the kinds of facts to be found in the book, the nature of the author's argument, and some of the main conclusions reached. (You should assume that the reader of your review already knows something about the book and the subject and is interested in what unique contributions the book makes to the subject.)

II. Analysis and Commentary (60 percent)

The rest of the review should be devoted to your own critical analysis of the book. Some of the points you might consider in writing this part of the review are listed here:

- A. Values. Does the author display strong feelings about his subject? If so, does this prevent him from being fair and objective?
- B. Methodology. What kinds of evidence does the author draw on to prove his main points? Does he draw on his own original research or on the work of others? Does he put forth his main argument clearly, effectively, and convincingly?
- C. Validity of Conclusion. Do you agree with the author's main conclusions? If so, why? If not, why not?
- D. Writing Style. What is the quality of the author's writing style? Is he successful in communicating his ideas in a clear and persuasive way?
- E. Contribution to the Literature. Does this book significantly advance our understanding of the subject? Or is it a rehash, offering few new insights and little fresh information.
- F. Your Final Recommendation. Would you recommend this book to other students as worthwhile reading?

III. Mechanics (15 percent)

Your review should be headed by the following information: author; title of book; place of publication; publisher; date of publication; number of pages in the book; number of pages you have read.

Example: Mitchell, Henry H., Celebration and Experience in Preaching (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990), 155 pages (number of pages read).

In addition, you should leave margins of one and one-half inches on the top, bottom, and sides of each page. Be sure to check your review carefully for proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

IV. Writing

You should take special care in composing your review, striving for clarity of expression and a sense of cohesion and organization. It should be clear to the reader not only that you have read the book but also that you have thought about what you have read and have used your own experiences and critical faculties in formulating your comments.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

School of Theology and Missions

COMPLETION OF A COURSE

To receive a passing grade in any course, **all** work must be completed as assigned. Failure to complete even one of the "lesser" assignments, i.e., a devotional paper or a reading report, will result in a failing grade for the course.

All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment. If the work is not turned in at all, the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

NO WORK is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

INCOMPLETES

An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor, the department chairman, and the dean by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

A Petition for Policy Exception with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions.

A Petition for Policy Exception must be accompanied by a processing fee of \$25.

EXAMINATIONS

Early examinations **are not** allowed.

Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**

A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor, the chairman, and the dean. A \$25 fee, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the appropriate Theology office (Baccalaureate or Graduate).

If the petition is approved, the student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition.

If the petition is **not** approved, the student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the **denial** of the petition. **Grade penalties will be applied in this case, as indicted by the Academic Affairs Committee.**

Any exam not taken within five (5) calendar days of the originally scheduled exam will receive a zero grade.

If an exam is not taken, the student receives a failing grade for the course for not completing all work required by the syllabus.

ALL exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, etc., to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the School of Theology and Missions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

By signing the Honor Code, the student has pledged, "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments."

The current ORU Catalog and Student Handbook reiterate that "No Christian intellectual community can maintain its integrity or be faithful to its members if violations of its central purpose are tolerated for any reason. This principle of intellectual responsibility applies to all work done by students."

Cheating and plagiarism attack the basis for academic accreditation and Judeo-Christian civilization. They are violations of God's moral codes. Plagiarism is literary or artistic theft and misrepresentation. It is not only a moral wrong, but it is illegal. For a full description of plagiarism, see Alexander Lindley, Plagiarism and Originality, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1952. This volume is on permanent reserve.

No collaboration among students on assignments will be allowed without prior written approval from the professor. The ORU Student Handbook specifies that "each student will do his or her own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. A student violating this principle of intellectual responsibility will receive an **F grade** in the course involved and face disciplinary action including possible suspension from Oral Roberts University."