

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Lay Study Program**

PREACHING

A Brief Course Description

This course is designed for lay people who are beginning to preach or considering preaching in a church setting. The course will cover the basic elements of hearing God's word, communicating that word to listeners in an authentic manner and in a way that is faithful to the text while connecting to human experience.

Expected Outcomes

Students will:

- develop a clear personal concept of the task and purpose of preaching.
- develop a personal understanding of the process of moving from Biblical text to sermon.
- explore how to choose a text for preaching and be aware of tools that are available.
- explore different methods of delivering a sermon using full manuscript, notes only, memorized, extemporaneous, etc.
- become aware of a variety of preaching styles in the Christian tradition, including different cultural traditions and theological perspectives.
- consider the disciplines of sermon preparation: time, prayer, exegesis, creating a structure appropriate to the sermon's message, practice for effective presentation, etc.
- learn how to assess your listeners' characteristics and needs.
- construct at least one complete sermon written and presented to the class.
- receive encouragement through affirmation of preaching strengths and constructive suggestions for how to strengthen a sermon.
- practice preparing messages for other than weekly worship services, such as funeral meditations, children's messages, wedding homilies, eulogies, brief media meditations, etc.
- explore the use of technology such as digital sources, visual aids, etc. in preaching – the benefits and drawbacks.
- consider the need to pace oneself when preaching regularly and how to stay fresh and alive for people.
- explore resources for sermon research and preparation and their appropriate use.

Class Expectations

Students will read the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.

Students taking the course for credit will attend at least eight out of ten classes.

Students who are taking the course for credit will create and hand in the written assignments and/or completed projects, designed by the teacher (which will include writing and presenting at least one complete sermon).

Classes

The course is expected to provide 20 hours of class time (usually presented in 10 two hour sessions). A short break may be included in the middle of the class time. Classes may be designed to include a variety of learning experiences, including but not limited to: interactive lectures, small and large group discussions, and student presentations for class and instructor response. Modifications to this structure may be done at the discretion of the instructor.

Suggested Resources

Texts

Preaching by Fred Craddock (Abingdom Press,1985)

The Witness of Preaching by Thomas Long 3rd Edition (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016)

From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching by Clifton Guthrie (Abingdon Press, 2005)

A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon by Karoline Lewis (Working Preacher, 2020)

A Sermon Workbook: Exercises in the Art and Craft of Preaching, by Thomas H. Troeger and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale (Abingdon, 2013)

Other Resources (a starting place)

WorkingPreacher.com

Textweek.com

Online live and recorded preaching events

5/18/21