

Preaching for Tomorrow
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Fall 2009
Schlegel Hall
Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:50 p.m.

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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Eschatology has historically been defined as the doctrine of last things. As a result, when people think of eschatology, they very often think only of the apocalyptic manifestations as exemplified in the books of Daniel and Revelation. However, there is more to eschatology than the apocalyptic. In this class, we will examine the relationship between eschatology and worldview by examining the work and writings of: the apostle Paul, modern American Protestantism, Jurgen Moltmann, and liberation theology.

Students will engage readings, analyze sermons for their eschatological content, and preach one sermon. By the end of the course students will be able to identify their own eschatology and how their views affect their preaching.

It is important that students understand that their evaluations in the course will not be based on taking a particular eschatological position. There is no right or wrong eschatological position. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to examine and clarify their eschatological perspectives so that they can make informed decisions when developing sermons.

Note: Basic preaching is a prerequisite for this course.

By the end of the course (course objectives):

- 1) Students will understand how eschatological perspective is related to worldview, culture, and authoritative understandings of the bible.
- 2) Students will identify their own eschatology by engaging the course readings and analyzing sermons.
- 3) Students will understand how their eschatological perspectives shape their preaching.

Required Texts:

Bock, Darrell L. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

All other course reading will be posted on CAMS course site.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend every class session and actively participate in class discussions. (15%)
2. Each student will sign up on the first day of class to facilitate one class discussion of assigned readings. Guidelines for classroom facilitation are on this syllabus. (10%)
3. Each student must complete critical reviews of three assigned readings. Critical reviews are due on the day the reading is assigned on the syllabus. The review must respond to each of the questions outlined on this syllabus. (15%)
4. Each student will submit a 7-10 page exegetical paper on a scripture passage of choice. The passage chosen should be the same passage to be used to develop the sermon. Guidelines for the exegetical paper are included with this syllabus. (25%)
5. Each student will also preach one 15-20 minute sermon. Along with the sermon, each student must submit a manuscript or outline of the sermon along with a statement clearly identifying her/his eschatology according to the available categories given in class. (35%)

Note: All readings listed on syllabus are posted on the CAMS course site

Fall Semester 2009 Class Schedule

September 16, 2009 **Introduction to the course and students.**

“Eschatology,” *Anchor Bible Dictionary*: Ed. David Noel Freedman.

New York: Doubleday, 1992: 594-609 II

“Parousia,” *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 166-70.

Introduction to Worldview and Interpretation

Relationship between Worldview and Interpretation

Fernando Segovia, "Cultural Studies and Contemporary Biblical Criticism: Ideological Criticism as Mode of Discourse" in *Reading from This Place*, Volume 2. Fernando F. Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert, Eds. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995), 1-17.

September 23, 2009 Teresa Okure, S.H.C.J., "Reading from This Place: Some Problems and Prospects," in *Reading from This Place*, 52-66.

Introduction to Eschatology and Interpretation

Eschatology and Interpretation

Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Dunham, 1958.

Sermon Analysis: John Nelson Darby

November 18, 2009 **Presentative Eschatology**
Introduction to Moltmann and the Theology of Hope
 Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993), 15-36

Review of Presentative Eschatology
 Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993), 304-338.

Introduction to Liberating/Prophetic Eschatology

November 25, 2009 **Student Presentation**
Prophetic/Liberating Eschatology
 Erskine, Noel. "Christian Hope and the Black Experience." *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* no. 7 (1979): 88-100.

Student Presentation
 Joan Martin, "A Sacred Hope and Social Goal: Womanist Eschatology," in *Liberating Eschatology: Essays in Honor of Letty M. Russell*. Margaret A. Farley and Serene Jones, Eds. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999), 209-224.

December 2, 2009 **Student Presentation**
 Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, "Creating a New Heaven and a New Earth," 227-239

Sermon Analysis

Facilitation of Review of Readings (10%)

Each student is required to facilitate one classroom session during the semester. Students should develop a handout or handouts for classmates that summarize the main points of the reading(s). Students should find creative ways to engage the class in a discussion of the readings. Students will have forty-five minutes of classroom time within which to lead the discussion. Points that should be included in the presentation are:

- 1) Summary of the readings. What topic(s) were covered in the reading? What are the most important points the author makes?
- 2) What is the social location of the author? (denomination, education, teaching environment, etc.)
- 3) How is social location of the author or view reflected in the writing? (For example is the bible interpreted literally? Is the author's view of the text liberating or traditional?)

- 4) What did you find most helpful about the reading?
- 5) How would implementing the main points of the reading affect a preacher's eschatology?

Critical Review of Articles/Readings (15%)

Each student must complete critical reviews of three assigned readings. Critical reviews are due on the day the reading is assigned on the syllabus. The review must respond to each of the following questions:

- 1) Summary of the readings. What topic(s) were covered in the reading? What was/were the author's main point(s)?
- 2) What is the social location of the author? (denomination, education, teaching environment, etc.)
- 3) How is social location of the author or worldview reflected in the writing? (For example is the bible interpreted literally? Is the author's view of the text liberating or traditional?)
- 4) Critique. What do you feel was missing from the reading? Are there points in the reading with which you disagree? Why do you disagree with the author?
- 5) What did you find most helpful about the reading?
- 6) How would implementing the main points in the reading affect the preacher's eschatology?

Guidelines for the Exegetical Paper (25%)

Each student must submit a 7-10 page exegetical paper on a text of their choice. **The paper is due on Tuesday, October 23, 2007.** In *The Witness of Preaching*, Thomas Long presents a brief method of exegesis for preaching. Details about what is required in each section are contained in the reading. The reading is posted on the course website. The paper must include each of the following sections:

- I. Getting the Text in View
 - a. Selecting the text
(Please indicate why you chose a particular text.)
- II. Getting Introduced to the Text
 - a. Read the text for basic understanding
 - b. Place the text in its larger context
- III. Attending to the Text
 - a. Listen attentively to the text
- IV. Testing What is Heard in the Text
 - a. Explore the text historically
 - b. Explore the literary character of the text
 - c. Explore the text theologically (God in relation to humanity)
 - d. Check text in commentaries
 - e. "Moving Toward the Sermon:" State the claim of the text upon the hearers and preacher

Other Expectations

Mutual Respect

During class, each person is required to respect her/his classmates and the instructor by arriving to class on time, listening attentively to the thoughts and opinions of others, providing constructive feedback to sermons of others, and turning off cell phones before class begins.

Assignments

All assignments are to be turned in on the due date by 5:00 p.m. through CAMS Digital Drop Box. Assignments submitted late will be penalized five points per day. Preaching dates will be selected and negotiated in class. Once a date is set, do not expect to change it. Except in the event of a catastrophe, failure to preach on the assigned date is subject to a grade of “zero” for that sermon.

Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities.

Plagiarism

It is expected that students will perform all written and oral assignments with complete academic integrity by only submitting papers and preaching/submitting sermons with their own original thoughts and ideas. When using thoughts and idea of others, students are to properly attribute credit in footnotes. Any instances of plagiarism discovered will be reported to the Dean’s office. Two reports of plagiarism constitute grounds for dismissal from LPTS.

Bibliography

Bock, Darrell L. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

Dunn, James. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.

Erskine, Noel. "Christian Hope and the Black Experience." *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* no. 7 (1979): 88-100.

Farley, Margaret A. and Serene Jones. *Liberating Eschatology: Essays in Honor of Letty M. Russell*, ed. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Freedman, David Noel Ed., *Anchor Bible Dictionary*: New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Long, Thomas. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

Moltmann, Jurgen. *Theology of Hope: On the Ground and the Implications of Christian Eschatology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Scroggs, Robin. *Paul For a New Day*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Segovia, Fernando F. and Mary Ann Tolbert. *Reading from this Place Volume 2* ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Weber, Timothy P. *On the Road to Armageddon*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2004.