School of Theology and Christian Ministry

CMI3000-1 / Preaching

Three Units

Fall 2025

T-Th 11:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Smee Religion Seminar Room

Final Exam: Thursday, December 18, 10:30 – 1:00 p.m.

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Smee Hall, Office 205	
Office Hours: Mondays 3-5; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30	
Course Textbooks: Black, Kathy. *A Healing Homiletic: Preaching and Disability* Kim, Matthew D. *A Little Book for New Preachers* Salgado, Jonathan. *The Authority of the Bible in Preaching: A Study in Homiletics and Hermeneutics* Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. *The Whispered Word: A Theology of Preaching*	

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will examine the preaching office of the Church. Students will learn the essentials of biblical interpretation (hermeneutics and exegetical method), theology, and an understanding of the "social location" of the local congregation for effective preaching of God's good news in Christ.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will interpret and exegete diverse genres of scripture.
2. Students will construct and preach two sermons (4-5 pages, double-spaced) for a specific local congregation or group and be appreciatively assessed by their classmates and at least two other persons.
3. Drawing from the assigned readings for this course, students will develop a written theology of preaching.

Assessment and Grading

Final Grade will be determined on the basis of:

1. Faithful attendance and participation (10 points per class session), which will be determined significantly by submission – for each day's reading assignment – of a brief response which will include a) at least one *big idea* that you believe will be significant to your development of a theology of preaching, and b) at least *one thoughtful question* which this reading assignment produced for you, 28%;
2. Two sermon manuscripts (with an outline included), 12 % each;
3. The actual oral preaching of the two sermon manuscripts (#2 above), 10% each; and
4. A final paper (5-7 pages double-spaced) exploring your *theology of preaching*, to be presented orally during the final examination session (18% for paper and 10% for final exam presentation and discussion).

94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+;

73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69, D+; 63-66, D; 60-62, D-; below 60, F.

I do round up on percentages, e.g., a final percentage of 93.5 and higher is an A.

Important Points Regarding Your Writing for this Class:

Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a critical role in your professor's evaluation of all your papers. Please avail yourselves of the services of a competent, trustworthy proofreader or the university's Writing Center (more information about the Center below). I make no apologies for this. This is a liberal arts institution, which means I reserve the right to be equally concerned with your spelling, grammar, and punctuation as I am with your ideas. Indeed, your ideas are severely compromised when expressed poorly in writing. I take this seriously.

No assignments or extra work will be accepted after the date of the final day of classes (prior to finals week). *Do not waste your breath or my time by asking for extra credit opportunities beyond that point.* It is remarkable how often students clamor for some way to raise their grade

after the semester has ended. Please note, again, that the only written work I will accept after the last day of classes is work that actually has a due date after that last day.

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Preaching, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include critical biblical studies, the role of doubt and questioning in Christian preaching, proper emotional and physical boundaries between pastor/preacher and congregation, and other religious traditions outside Christianity. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually, spiritually, or theologically challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the practice of Christian proclamation, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will be assigned only in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

The PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the full equality and dignity of all people. Recognizing that human beings have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women and other marginalized peoples, the department strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist and racist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.

Further, Loma faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you have (or someone you know has) experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see Loma Writing Center webpage or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: https://plnu.mywconline.com/
- Website: https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Course Calendar:

Sept 2 – Introduction to the course and of ourselves. 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

Sept 4 – Kim, 11-30. Isaiah 55

Sept 9 – Kim, 31-52. Isaiah 40:1-11

Sept 11 – Kim, 55-71. Jonah 3-4.

Sept 16 – Kim 72-94. Acts 17.

Sept 18 – Kim 97-122. Colossians 1:15-29

Sept 23 – sermon by Mildred Bangs Wynkoop, "God's Living Truth for You"

Sept 25 – Salgado, 1-32. John 1:1-18

Sept 30 – Salgado, 33-46.

Oct 2 – Salgado, 47-71.

Oct 7 – Salgado, 73-84

Oct 9 – Salgado, 85-112.

Oct 14 – Black, 7-22.

Oct 16 – Black, 23-42

Oct 21 – Black, 43-56

Oct 23 – Beginning fall break – no classes

Oct 28 – Black 57-75

Oct 30 – Black 75-87

Nov 4 – Black 88-103

Nov 6 – Black 104-123

Nov 11 – Black 124-136

Nov 13 – Black 137-158

Nov 18 – Black 159-186

Nov 20 – Sermon by Christa Klosterman, “Unexpectedly Qualified”

Nov 25 – Suchocki, *The Whispered Word*

Nov 26 – 27 – No classes . Thanksgiving Break

Dec 2 – Suchocki

Dec 4 – Suchocki

Dec 9 – Suchocki

Dec 11 – Suchocki

Dec 13, midnight: Theology of preaching paper due.

December 15 – 19 Finals Week

Final Exam: Thursday 10:30 to 1 p.m.