

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute of Theology**  
**Fall 2017**

**Saturdays 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 12/2, 12/9**

**9:00 am-1:30 pm**

**PT709 Preaching in the Black Church Tradition**

**Dr. C. Anthony Hunt**

**Course Description:** A theoretical and practical introduction to preaching, and the role it plays in the African-American church tradition, with the purpose of broadening one's understanding of the distinctiveness of African-American preaching within the context of congregational life and worship. In the study and practice of African-American preaching, we will examine particular methods, styles, and perspectives on preaching through reflection, shared experience, and practical application.

**Course Requirements:**

**Reading and Participation** - Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class. Participation will include in-class evaluated group work on sermon development (20 % of grade)

**Writing and Presentations:**

- For class on 10/28, the student is to prepare a sermon on a particular *pastoral* situation in the African-American church context. The sermon will be presented in class (10-12 minutes), and is to be submitted in written form (5 to 6 pages). The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with the plethora of pastoral issues that the preacher will encounter. The student is to use the assigned text, *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority* (Proctor) as a guide in preparing the sermon. (20 % of grade)
- For class on 11/18, the student is to prepare a sermon on a particular *prophetic* situation in the African-American church context. The sermon will be presented in class (10-12 minutes), and is to be submitted in written form (5 to 6 pages). The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with the many prophetic concerns that the preacher will encounter. The student is to use the assigned text, *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority* (Proctor) as a guide in preparing the sermon. (30% of grade)
- On 12/9, the student is to submit a final theological reflection paper/essay, 4-5 pages (not to exceed 1250 words) in length with reflections on "Preaching in the Black Church Tradition". Among the matters that the paper should address are: (1) the importance of black preaching in the past and today; (2) key learnings from the course; (3) what you see as the future significance of black preaching; (4) what you see as key themes, and societal and ecclesial shifts and changes that black preaching might need to address/engage to be effective into the future. (30% of grade)

**Required Texts:**

- LaRue, Cleophus. *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN: 0-664-25847-6.
- LaRue, Cleophus. *Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN: 978-0664224813.
- Moyd, Olin P. *The Sacred Art: Preaching and Theology in the African American Tradition*. Judson Press, 1995. ISBN: 0-8170-1220-6.
- Proctor, Samuel D. *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority*. Judson Press, 1994. ISBN: 0-8170-1202-8.