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PR 750 Preaching for Special Occasions

J. Ellsworth Kalas

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PR750 Preaching for Special Occasions

Professor: J. Ellsworth Kalas
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Office: Beeson 217
Office Hours:
Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

FALL 2002

PR750, TR 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Prerequisite: PR 610

This course celebrates the fact that a parish pastor may preach/speak as often each year for special events and occasions as on Sunday mornings. Also, a number of Sunday mornings are also “special days” in the church calendar, and sometimes in the secular calendar, too.

Course material will begin with weddings and funerals, then continue through the calendar both sacred and secular (i.e., Ash Wednesday, Independence Day), including even First Sunday in a New Pulpit. The course will conclude with insights on preaching a sermon series.

Textbooks:

1. James F. Kay, *Seasons of Grace*
2. Long and McCarter, *Preaching In and Out of Season*
3. Fleming Rutledge, *The Bible and the New York Times*

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance in class sessions, and involvement in discussion and critiquing.
2. Reading of assigned materials.
3. Oral:
 - 1) 4-5 minute wedding homily, deliver in class, without manuscript or notes.
 - 2) 8-10 minute communion homily/meditation/sermon
 - 3) 13-16 minute talk for a secular group, delivered in class. Specifics of this talk will be assigned later.

4. Written:

- 1) 2-3 page review of *Seasons of Grace*. I'm seeking your reaction to the material rather than a summary of what the book is about.

Due Sept 26

- 2) 5-6 page paper comparing and contrasting four sermons from Achtemeier, *Preaching as Theology and Art*. (on reserve) from the list below, with any four sermons from Rutledge, *The Bible and the New York Times*.

Consider especially these questions:

Did the sermon do justice to the occasion (that is, the special day or season), revealing its importance and its spiritual significance?

PR750 Preaching for Special Occasions – continued (Professor J. Ellsworth Kalas)

Would this sermon appeal to an occasional churchgoer, the kind of person who might attend only on Easter, Christmas, or Mother’s Day?
Did the sermon interest, influence, or inspire you?

The Achtemeier sermons:

Advent: “Of Repentance and Captivity”

Epiphany: “On Living in Reality”

Lent: “The Journey – the Choice”

Eastertide: “Dealing with the Final Foe”

Pentecost: “The Easy Yoke”

This paper will be **Due October 31.**

- 3) 5-7 page paper developing either a Lenten or an Advent sermon series. In your paper, please include, for each sermon:
- A title
 - A scripture lesson
 - A brief summary of your idea, and how you would expect to develop it in the sermon.

If this is an Advent series, plan four sermons; if a Lenten series, seven, including Easter. This paper will be **Due December 3.**

Basis of Grading:

50% - Written Work

45% - Oral Presentation

5% - Attendance and Participation