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## Aquinas Institute History of Christian Preaching, Summer, 2005 Syllabus and Websites for Selected Documents

This class offers snapshots at the history of Christian Preaching. These snapshots provide an overview of Western Christian Preaching, with special attention given to issues related to the authority to preach and the role of preaching in shaping and responding to culture.

### **Monday: Early Christian Preaching: From Evangelists' Fervor to Ecclesial Concern for Doctrinal Instruction (c. 30 C.E.-6<sup>th</sup> c.)**

Today we trace the earliest developments of Christian preaching from spontaneous, and at times ecstatic, evangelism by both men and women, to the progressively monitored and authorized religious instruction given by bishops.

**Video Clip:** *The Last Temptation of Christ*

**Background Information:** <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook11.html>

**Texts:**

**2 Clement:** <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/2clement-roberts.html>

**Augustine, Homilies:** <http://www.ccel.org/fathers/NPNF1-06/ecf15.htm>

and <http://www.ccel.org/fathers/NPNF1-07/ecf16.htm>

**Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine (De Doctrina Christiana)*:**

<http://www.ccel.org/a/augustine/doctrine/doctrine.txt>

### **Tuesday: Medieval Preaching: Mass Media to Unify Christendom (c. 800-1400)**

Today we examine the role of preaching in political, ecclesiastical, and cultural unification of Western Europe.

**Video Clip:** *A&E Documentary on the Crusades, Pt I; Brother Sun, Sister Moon*

**Texts:**

**Crusading Preaching:**

Accounts of Urban II's Preaching the First Crusade:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/urban2-5vers.html>

Eugenius II Call for Second Crusade:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/eugene3-2cde.html>

cf. Papal Bull of Innocent III on calling to Crusade, 1215

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/inn3-cdesummons.html>

**Mendicants:**

Dominican Order, History: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12354c.htm>

Franciscan Order, History: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06217a.htm>

### **Wednesday: Reforming the Christian Message (1200-1600)**

Evangelical Movements that countered the efforts to unify Christian identity, devotional practices, and doctrine emerged long before the Protestant Reformation. This class looks at the persistent efforts expressed through preaching to reform the Church from the 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Video Clip:** *The Anchoress*

**Texts:**

Background: <http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-home.html>

Luther's Sermons: <http://www.orlutheran.com/html/mlserms.html>

Good Friday, On Christ's Sufferings: <http://www.orlutheran.com/html/mlcross.html>

### **Thursday: Preaching Traditions Move to the Americas, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries**

This class focuses on the Great Awakening and the Second Great Awakening, the evangelical revivals of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, which at times included women preachers.

**Video Clip:** *The Apostle* [the selection of this film is anachronistic, but depicts a kind of Evangelical Preaching that was found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century South]

Background on The Great Awakening:

<http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us:8080/tserve/eighteen/ekeyinfo/grawaken.htm>

Texts:

George Whitefield, sermons: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/whitefield/sermons.html>

"The Seed of the Woman, and the Seed of the Serpent"

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/whitefield/sermons.iii.html#iii-p0.3>

Jonathan Edwards: <http://www.jonathanedwards.com/>

Sermons of J. Edwards: <http://www.jonathanedwards.com/sermons.htm>

On Unavoidable Punishment:

<http://www.jonathanedwards.com/sermons/Warnings/future.htm>

### **Friday: Preaching a Universal Faith in the 20<sup>th</sup> century-The Challenge of Universal Media**

In the post-war era, preaching is torn between embraced a multi-cultural message by tapping into the Christian wisdom of humble, faithful people, on the one hand, and embracing universalizing media such as television and the internet to deliver a hierarchically approved message.

**Video clips:** of Fulton Sheen, Billy Graham, Martin Luther King, Jr.; *Gods of Time Square*

Liberation Theology: Oscar Romero, Ernesto Cardenal

Oscar Romero: <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/romero.htm>

Compilations of Excerpts from Sermons: <http://www.justpeace.org/romero.htm>

Live Simply: <http://www.justpeace.org/romero1.htm>

The Gospel of Solentiname:

[http://www.stanford.edu/group/arts/nicaragua/discovery\\_eng/history/solentiname.html](http://www.stanford.edu/group/arts/nicaragua/discovery_eng/history/solentiname.html)

<http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~paulian/ed1603/gospelsolentiname.htm>