



“St Andrews Road,” 2003

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**MN 130W
FROM TEXT TO SERMON
Spring 2010**

1 credit hour
Credit/ no credit unless otherwise arranged
Fulfills first-year M.Div. Preaching requirement

S. D. Giere, PhD
Fritschel 206
Telephone x225
sgiere@wartburgseminary.edu

Email, telephone, or knock for Appointments

OBJECTIVES:

The introductory scope of this course affords an opportunity to focus on four objectives:

- a. To explore a Lutheran law/gospel hermeneutic;
- b. To begin to discern what is genuinely evangelical in proclamation;
- c. To explore the challenges of scriptural interpretation; and
- d. To begin to develop a reliable discipline for sermon preparation.

BYWAYS:

By way of the course readings and assignments, lecture/discussion sessions, colleague group sessions, and preaching, we will engage fundamental topics in the art of sermon preparation, with special consideration of language and texts, listeners and speakers. Attentive to the exegetical skills being developed in biblical courses, this course begins to weave those insights into the discipline of homiletics. Near the conclusion of the semester students will prepare a sermon on an assigned text and preach it in a small group setting. Attentive listening to and sensitive critique of one another's sermons will be crucial during this preaching session.

EVALUATION:

Attendance at all lecture/discussion sessions is expected, as well as active and informed participation in the colleague group to which the student is assigned. Evaluation will be based on four kinds of assigned work:

- a. Participation that reflects engagement with the course readings;
- b. Preparation of one creative writing assignment;
- c. Preparation and presentation of one sermon in line with the course objectives and the assignment structure outlined in class; and
- d. Collegial participation in colleague groups.

GRADING

Grades are earned and awarded individually based on fulfilling the assignment and not in relation to the work of other students. This includes completing and submitting the work as assigned and on time, the content of the work, and presentation in the case of a sermon. It is expected that the student takes responsibility for her/his work. What follows is a key to what certain grades represent.

- A / Cr Masterful attention to text and context. Quality imaginative theological engagement. Impeccable reasoning. Creative expression.
- B / Cr Good attention to text and context. Some elements of imaginative theological engagement. Some aspects of creative expression. Reasoning displays some flaws.
- C / Cr Wholly adequate attention to text and context. Wants for imaginative theological engagement, good expression, and/or reasoning.
- D/NCr Inadequate in some ways. Fails to attend to text and/or context. Flawed theological engagement. Lacks clear expression. Displays faulty reasoning.
- F/NCr Wholly inadequate. Disregards text and context. Lacks theological engagement and reason. Poor expression.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required

Brown Taylor, Barbara. *The Preaching Life*.
 Long, Thomas G. & Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., eds. *A Chorus of Witnesses*.
 Wilson, Paul Scott, *The Four Pages of a Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*
 MN130W Course Reader

Recommended

Rosser, Aelred, R. *Guide for Lectors*.
 ----. *A Well-Trained Tongue: Formation in the Ministry of Reader*.
 Walker, William O., ed. *Harper’s Bible Pronunciation Guide*.

Contents of Course Reader

Andersen, Hans Christian, “A Vision of the Last Day”
 Brown Taylor, Barbara, “Where the Bible leads me,” *Christian Century* (18 Oct 2003) 59.
 Lose, David J., “Martin Luther on Preaching the Law,” *Word & World* 21 (2001) 253-261.
 Peters, Ted, “Law-Gospel Dialectic in the Pulpit,” *dialog* 39 (2000) 178-192.
 Strohl, Jane, “Law and Gospel in Preaching,” *dialog* 29 (2000) 164-168.

SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1 February Introduction & Syllabus
- 8 February The Ministry of Reading
 - Barbara Brown Taylor, “Where the Bible Leads Me,” Course Reader.
 - * Aelred Rosser, *Guide for Lectors*.
 - * Aelred Rosser, *A Well-Trained Tongue: Formation in the Ministry of Reader*.
 - *Walker, William O., ed. *Harper’s Bible Pronunciation Guide*.

NB – Reading Assignment Due

- 15 February Lutheran Reading I
 - Hans Christian Andersen, “A Vision of the Last Day,” Course Reader
 - Ted Peters, “Law-Gospel Dialectic in the Pulpit,” Course Reader

22 February	Lutheran Reading II David Lose, "Martin Luther on Preaching the Law," Course Reader. Jane Strohl, "Law and Gospel in Preaching," Course Reader.
1 March	Research & Study Days – No Class
8 March	Lutheran Listening Two selections from <i>Chorus of Witnesses</i>
15 March	Lutheran Listening – Small Group Two selections from <i>Chorus of Witnesses</i>
	<i>NB – Creative Writing Assignment Due</i>
22 March	Proclamation & Being Barbara Brown Taylor, <i>The Preaching Life</i> , pp.3-86.
29 March	Listening to the Text – The Ministry of Exegesis Wilson, <i>Four Pages of the Sermon</i> , 9-72.
5 April	Easter Monday – No Class
12 April	Listening to the Context – The Ministry of Presence Wilson, <i>Four Pages of the Sermon</i> , 73-154.
19 April	Listening to Each Other – Small Group Text Studies Wilson, <i>Four Pages of the Sermon</i> , 155-234.
	<i>NB – Assignment of Texts for Sermon</i>
26 April	Listening to the Whole – Sermon Design Wilson, <i>Four Pages of the Sermon</i> , 235-262.
3 May	Preaching <i>NB - Meet from 7:00-9:00pm in Small Groups</i>
10 May	Preaching in the Rearview Mirror

NB – Texts marked with an asterisk (*) are recommended *not* required.

Colleague Groups

Group 1

* Janai Robinson
Lee Gable
Eric Grayvold
Lisa Konzen

Group 2

*Megan Reedstrom
Shannon Arnold
Kirk Wilkie
Jeremy Johnson

Group 3

*Alyssa Augustson
Youngshim Mason
Charlie Underwood
Marsha Volkommer

Group 4

*Tamra Harder
Josh Brecht
Rosy Rivera
Christina Wallace

Group 5

*Mamy Ranaivoson
Andrew Dietzel
Lisa Heffernen
Abigail Letsinger

Group 6

*Alan Dreyer
Kate Woolf
Jennifer Agee
Don Glanzer

Group 7

Susan Friedrich
Barb Kepler
David Murphy

(* denotes convener)

Pastoral Practices

Throughout the course you might consider how your individual work and our common work might develop the following pastoral practices as you continue to develop your sense of vocation and ministry:

“Wartburg Theological Seminary...”

[Three overarching practices]

- *Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel:* **Articulates** the Gospel in a way that is heard as Gospel. Is publicly Lutheran and Gospel-centered.
- *Practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament:* Is grounded in Word and Sacrament as the means by which God creates faith in Christ and a community (*koinonia*) for God’s mission (*martyria* and *diakonia*) in the world. The ordained exercise faithful worship preparation, **evangelical preaching**, and sacramental leadership. The consecrated serve as a strategic bridge between church and world. Associates in ministry serve faithfully in their areas of call in relationship to the worshipping community. All the baptized are sent by the Spirit to employ their gifts in God’s mission for the life of the world.
- *Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom:* **Interprets reality theologically and biblically as a habit.** Has a core set of theological concepts that are interpreted with flexibility in different contexts.

“...serves the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by being a worship-centered community of critical theological reflection where learning leads to mission and mission informs learning.”

- *Practice of Ecclesial Partnership:* Displays a **healthy sense of connectedness with the whole church.** Fosters partnership with the ELCA and ecumenical openness.
- *Practice of Complex Analysis:* **Demonstrates capacity to carefully examine complex social, economic, scientific, and religious issues without oversimplification.** Sees relationships from a systems perspective, remaining spiritually centered in the face of ambiguity.
- *Practice of Curiosity:* **Is fundamentally curious, employing creativity in the use of language. Is open to grow beyond current perspectives and willing to pursue learning with intellectual depth.**

“Within this community, Wartburg educates women and men to serve the church’s mission as ordained and lay leaders.”

- *Practice of Pastoral Concern:* Loves God’s people with the compassion of Christ, demonstrating a generous spirit in relating to others, teaching and modeling stewardship. Maintains a clear sense of pastoral identity and desire for excellence in pastoral ministry.
- *Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity:* Lives as person of faith, grounded in a life of prayer and study. Is self-aware in seeing the larger picture, proclaiming hope, leading courageously, and setting healthy boundaries.
- *Practice of Collegiality:* Leads in a way that is responsive to the situation and promotes team building. Creates collegial groups within and beyond the church for promoting many forms of ministry.

“This mission is to proclaim and interpret the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world created for communion with God and in need of personal and social healing.”

- *Practice of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others:* Listens in a way that leads people to deeper faith questions. Engages in thoughtful witness to the Christian message, especially to youth and those outside the faith.
- *Practice of Immersion in the Context:* Shows awareness of the context through listening to, dialogue with and involvement in the local community. Has ability to interpret texts and contexts with insight.
- *Practice of Sensitivity to Cross-Cultural and Global Dimensions:* Is sensitive to multicultural issues and religious pluralism in the context of globalization. Understands the inclusive character of the Christian Gospel.

WTS Accommodation Policy for Individuals with Disabilities

“It is Seminary policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disability conditions that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students are responsible for informing their instructor of any documented disability by the end of the first week of class or upon subsequent diagnosis. Documentation on disability conditions is to be kept on file with the Dean of Students office.”