



“St Mary’s Arch,” 2006

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MN230W PREACHING Spring 2010

3 credit hours – Letter grades or Credit/No Credit
Fulfills the Second-year M.Div. preaching requirement
Prerequisite – MN130W From Text to Sermon or
equivalent

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Email, telephone, or knock for appointments.

OBJECTIVES:

- a. To consider the theological and ecclesiological groundings and challenges of preaching;
- b. To reinforce a balanced and workable discipline for sermon preparation;
- c. To refine and employ a variety of exegetical tools;
- d. To continue to explore Lutheran categories of scriptural hermeneutics;
- e. To recognize and evaluate the theology of a sermon;
- f. To explore the requirements and resources unique to:
 - lectionary preaching;
 - preaching as *sacramentum verbi*;
 - preaching on special occasions;
 - and preaching within the liturgical calendar;
- g. To demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity to the context of one’s hearers;
- h. To demonstrate the ways in which aspects of delivery impact the sermon;
- i. To understand the relationship between personal character and proclamation; and
- j. To begin to identify and to honor one’s own emerging voice as a preacher.

RHYTHMS:

The course is designed around two different sorts of weekly meetings each with a different purpose related to the unified whole.

The first of these is a large-group gathering. Here lectures and class discussion will explore aspects of the theology and ecclesiology of preaching. The topics and assigned readings have been chosen to deepen your understanding of, (a) core concepts of Christian preaching, and (b) their expression in Lutheran thought and practice.

The second weekly meeting is the preaching precept, two-hour weekly meetings where proclamation is met with attentive listening and collegial critique. Beginning with the third week, students will prepare four sermons on a three-week rotation over the remainder of the semester. Each rotation is intended to meet slightly different challenges in the overall preaching task.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation is based on the following...

- Attendance at all lectures and preaching precepts is expected.
- Preparation and presentation of four sermons following the structure outlined in class, including, for M.Div. students, exegetical work on the Greek and/or Hebrew text.
- Participation – Collegial readiness and participation in large group sessions and in reflection on the sermons presented in the precept group are the most significant factors in evaluating a student's class participation.
- Occasional and *ad hoc* storytelling and written assignments which demonstrate that lecture content and reading assignments have been engaged and understood.

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***

Childers, Jana, ed. *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process* [Birthing]

Hall, Douglass John, *The Cross in Our Context: Jesus and the Suffering World*

King, Stephen. *On Writing*

Lischer, Richard, ed., *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching Augustine to the Present* [COP]

McKay Brown, George. *Hawkfall and other stories*

[NB – This book is required as a whole. The story “Hawkfall” is the only one required for a specific date (cf. 14 April).]

Schlauffer, David, *What Makes This Day Different?*

Stuempfle, Herman G., *Preaching Law and Gospel.*

MN 230W Course Reader

Recommended

- Barth, Karl, *Homiletics*
- Bartlett, David L., *Between the Bible and the Church*
- Brueggemann, Walter, *Cadences of Home: Preaching among Exiles*
- Fant, Clyde E., *Worldly Preaching with Bonhoeffer's Finkenwalde Lectures on Homiletics*
- Hilkert, Mary Catherine, *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*
- Janowiak, Paul, *The Holy Preaching: The Sacramentality of the Word in the Liturgical Assembly*
- Knowles, Michael P., *We Preach Not Ourselves: Paul on Proclamation*
- Lischer, Richard, *The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence*.
----. *Theology of Proclamation* (revised edition)
- McMickle, Marvin A., *Shaping the Claim* (Elements of Preaching series)
- Nieman, James R., *Knowing the Context* (Elements of Preaching series)
- Reu, Michael, *Homiletics: A Manual of the Theory and Practice of Preaching*
- Skillrud, Harald C., et al, eds., *The Word of God: Scripture and Tradition* (Lutheran Roman Catholic Dialogue IX)
- Webb, Joseph M., *Old Texts, New Sermons: The Quiet Revolution in Biblical Preaching*
- Willimon, William H., *Peculiar Speech: Preaching to the Baptized*
- Wingren, Gustaf, *The Living Word: A Theological Study of Preaching and the Church*

Contents of Course Reader

- Brueggemann, Walter, "Poetry in a Prose Flattened World," in *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation* (Fortress, 1989) 1-11.
- Dei Verbum
- ELCA, "Language and the Christian Assembly," in *Principles for Worship* (Augsburg, 2002) 1-22.
- , "Preaching and the Christian Assembly," in *Principles for Worship* (Augsburg, 2002) 47-66.
- Gerhard O. Forde, "Introduction," in *Theology is for Proclamation* (Augsburg Fortress, 1990) 1-9.
- , "Proclaiming," in *Theology is for Proclamation* (Augsburg Fortress, 1990) 147-157.
- Greidanus, Sidney, "The Necessity of Preaching Christ Also from Old Testament Texts," CTJ 34 (1999): 188-197.
- Harris, James H., "Preaching out of Season: The Centrality of History and Culture in Preaching," in *Preaching Liberation* (Fortress, 1995) 37-56.
- Lose, David J., "Words that Do Things," *dialog* 39 (2000) 193-199.
- Ramshaw, Gail, "Introduction: The Three-Year Lectionary," in *Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary* (Augsburg Fortress, 2002) 10-21.
- Priebe, Duane A., "Theology and Hermeneutics," in *Studies in Lutheran Hermeneutics*, John Reumann, ed. (Fortress, 1979) 295-311.

SCHEDULE & REQUIRED READINGS:

1 February	Introduction & Syllabus
	Section 1: Theology of Preaching
8 February	<p>What is proclamation? Alan of Lille, "The Seventh Rung," <i>COP</i>, 3-7. Friedrich Schleiermacher, "Religious Discourse," <i>COP</i>, 8-14. Gerhard Forde, "Introduction" & "Proclamation," Course Reader. *Barbara Brown Taylor, "Preaching," <i>COP</i>, 46-53.</p>
15 February	<p><i>Sacramentum Verbi</i> I Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Proclaimed Word," <i>COP</i>, 31-37. Duane Priebe, "Theology and Hermeneutics," Course Reader. *Barbara K. Lundblad, <i>Birthing</i>, 119-130, [131-134]. *Harald C. Skillrud, et al, eds., <i>Word of God</i>, 19-51.</p>
22 February	<p><i>Sacramentum Verbi</i> II Walter Brueggemann, "Poetry in a Prose Flattened World," Course Reader. ELCA, "Language and the Christian Assembly," Course Reader. Stephen King, <i>On Writing</i>, pp. 135-254. *Barbara Shires Blaisdell, <i>Birthing</i> 1-6, [7-14]</p>
1 March	Research & Study Days – No Class
8 March	<p>Law & Gospel Hermann Stuempfle, <i>Preaching Law and Gospel</i>, 7-95. David Lose, "Words That Do Things," Course Reader. *Martin Luther, "Proclamation versus Moralism," <i>COP</i>, 115-119.</p>
15 March	<p>Preaching & the Theology of the Cross Douglas John Hall, <i>The Cross in Our Context</i>, pp.13-133, (*1-10, 137-230) *Jana Childers, <i>Birthing</i>, 35-44, [45-49]</p>
22 March	<p>Scripture & Proclamation Augustine, "Literal and Figurative Interpretation," <i>COP</i>, 169-181. Martin Luther, "The Letter and the Spirit," <i>COP</i>, 188-195. Justo González & Catherine González, "The Neglected Interpreters," <i>COP</i>, 248-264. *<i>Dei Verbum</i>, Course Reader.</p>
29 March	<p>Preaching the Old Testament Walter Brueggemann, <i>Cadences of Home</i>, pp. 1-56, 78-98. *Sidney Greidanus, "The Necessity of Preaching Christ Also from the Old Testament," Course Reader.</p>

Section 2: Ecclesiology of Preaching

5 April	Easter Monday – No Class
12 April	<p>Context, Context, Context</p> <p>Gregory the Great, “A Catalogue of Hearers,” <i>COP</i>, 355-361.</p> <p>James Harris, “Preaching out of Season: The Centrality of History and Culture in Preaching,” Course Reader.</p> <p>George Mackay Brown, <i>Hawkfall</i>, 1-43.</p> <p>*James A. Sanders, “Contextual Hermeneutics,” <i>COP</i>, 218-229.</p> <p>*Nieman & Rogers, <i>Preaching to Every Pew</i>.</p>
19 April	<p>Preaching & Sunday</p> <p>ELCA, “Preaching and the Christian Assembly,” Course Reader.</p> <p>ELCA, “Use of the Means of Grace,” Use of the Means of Grace,” Course Reader.</p> <p>Barbara Brown Taylor, <i>Birthing</i>, 153-163, [164-168].</p> <p>*J. Michael Reu, “The Sermon as Organic Part of the Service of the Worshipping Congregation,” <i>Homiletics</i>, 39-168.</p>
26 April	<p>Preaching and the Lectionary</p> <p>Gail Ramshaw, “Introduction: The Three-Year Lectionary,” Course Reader.</p> <p>Linda L. Clader, <i>Birthing</i>, 51-62, [63-66]</p> <p>*Mary G. Graves, <i>Birthing</i>, 83-94, [95-100].</p>
3 May	<p>Occasional Preaching</p> <p>David Schlaffer, <i>What Makes This Day Different?</i>, pp.3-60, 167-171.</p>
10 May	<p>Integrity, Rhetoric, & Style</p> <p>John Chrysostom, “The Temptations of Greatness,” <i>COP</i>, 57-63.</p> <p>Richard Baxter, “On the Making of the Preacher,” <i>COP</i>, 69-74</p> <p>P.T. Forsyth, “The One Great Preacher,” <i>COP</i>, 411-416.</p>

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

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.”

Spring 2010 – Middler Preaching – Tuesday a.m. precept

Date	Assignments Due	Assignments Given
2 February	Introduction to Precept	Storytelling & Sermon A – 1, 2
9 February	Storytelling – All	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5
16 February	Sermon A – 1, 2	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8
23 February	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3
2 March	Research & Study Days – No Class	
9 March	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8	Sermon B – 4, 5
16 March	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8
23 March	Sermon B – 4, 5	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3
30 March	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6
6 April	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3	Sermon C – 7, 8
13 April	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6	Sermon D – 1, 2
20 April	Sermon C – 7, 8	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5
27 April	Sermon D – 1, 2	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8
4 May	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5	
11 May	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8	

Spring 2010 – Middler Preaching – Tuesday p.m. precept

Date	Assignments Due	Assignments Given
2 February	Introduction to Precept	Storytelling & Sermon A – 1, 2
9 February	Storytelling – All	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5
16 February	Sermon A – 1, 2	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8
23 February	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3
2 March	Research & Study Days – No Class	
9 March	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8	Sermon B – 4, 5
16 March	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8
23 March	Sermon B – 4, 5	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3
30 March	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6
6 April	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3	Sermon C – 7, 8
13 April	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6	Sermon D – 1, 2
20 April	Sermon C – 7, 8	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5
27 April	Sermon D – 1, 2	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8
4 May	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5	
11 May	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8	

Spring 2010 – Middler Preaching – Wednesday a.m. precept

Date	Assignments Due	Assignments Given
3 February	Introduction to Precept	Storytelling & Sermon A – 1, 2
10 February	Storytelling – All	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5
17 February	Sermon A – 1, 2	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8
24 February	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3
3 March	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8	Sermon B – 4, 5
10 March	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8
17 March	Sermon B – 4, 5	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3
24 March	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6
31 March	Holy Week & Easter Break – No Class	
7 April	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3	Sermon C – 7, 8
14 April	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6	Sermon D – 1, 2
21 April	Sermon C – 7, 8	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5
28 April	Sermon D – 1, 2	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8
5 May	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5	
12 May	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8	

Spring 2010 – Middler Preaching – Thursday a.m. precept

Date	Assignments Due	Assignments Given
4 February	Introduction to Precept	Storytelling & Sermon A – 1, 2
11 February	Storytelling – All	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5
18 February	Sermon A – 1, 2	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8
25 February	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3
4 March	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8	Sermon B – 4, 5
11 March	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8
18 March	Sermon B – 4, 5	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3
25 March	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6
1 April	Holy Week & Easter Break – No Class	
8 April	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3	Sermon C – 7, 8
15 April	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6	Sermon D – 1, 2
22 April	Sermon C – 7, 8	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5
29 April	Sermon D – 1, 2	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8
6 May	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5	
13 May	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8	

Spring 2010 – Middler Preaching – Thursday p.m. precept

Date	Assignments Due	Assignments Given
4 February	Introduction to Precept	Storytelling & Sermon A – 1, 2
11 February	Storytelling – All	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5
18 February	Sermon A – 1, 2	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8
25 February	Sermon A – 3, 4, 5	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3
4 March	Sermon A – 6, 7, 8	Sermon B – 4, 5
11 March	Sermon B – 1, 2, 3	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8
18 March	Sermon B – 4, 5	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3
25 March	Sermon B – 6, 7, 8	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6
1 April	Holy Week & Easter Break – No Class	
8 April	Sermon C – 1, 2, 3	Sermon C – 7, 8
15 April	Sermon C – 4, 5, 6	Sermon D – 1, 2
22 April	Sermon C – 7, 8	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5
29 April	Sermon D – 1, 2	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8
6 May	Sermon D – 3, 4, 5	
13 May	Sermon D – 6, 7, 8	