

August 2025

MN640 Proclaiming the Word

Instructor: Timothy M. Slemmons

3 credits; Letter grade only.

This course lays the foundation for the practice of preaching the Word of God for the ongoing reformation, reconstitution, upbuilding, and witness of the church of Jesus Christ. It will strengthen the students' development of homiletical methods that include selecting and exegeting biblical texts for preaching, identifying biblical claims that will "preach," reflecting on theological metaphors and themes, understanding and appreciating the complexities of the preaching context, and developing and delivering sermons that communicate scriptural truth, Christian faith, and pragmatic vision both orally and aurally. Students will share sermon ideas in brief forms, preach in class, and respond to colleagues' sermons with a view toward building skills in pastoral sensitivity and critical listening.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to provide knowledge, nurture skills, and offer practical experience in:

- Exegesis, interpretation, theological reflection, and preaching from biblical texts, with a variety of contexts and occasions in view;
- Participation with peers in the formation of homiletical skills;
- Practice in homiletical self-assessment for personal and professional growth;
- Exposure to distinguished preachers/scholars who exemplify faithful and effective communication of the gospel.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- John C. Hill, *The Children's Sermon* (Independently Published, 2018) ISBN-13: 978-1546466406
- Matthew D. Kim, *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear our Sermons* (Baker, 2017) ISBN-13: 978-0801049620
- Thomas G. Long, *The Witness of Preaching, Third Edition* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016) ISBN-13: 978-0664261429
- Fleming Rutledge, *And God Spoke to Abraham: Preaching from the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2011) ISBN-13: 978-0802866066
- Timothy Matthew Slemmons, *The Good Confession* (Independently Published, 2020) ISBN-13: 979-8619006148
- _____, *Year D: A Quadrennial Supplement to the Revised Common Lectionary* (Eugene: OR: Cascade Books, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-1610973120
- Barbara Brown Taylor, *Home By Another Way* (Cowley Publications, 1997) ISBN-13: 978-1561011674

*STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHOOSE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING TEXTS (based on an area of particular interest, context, or desired growth):

- O. Wesley Allen, *Determining the Form: Structures for Preaching* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009); ISBN-13: 978-0800604448
- Jana Childers, ed., *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process* (Chalice Press, 2001) ISBN-13: 978-0827202306
- Kenyatta R. Gilbert, *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons about Justice and Hope* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2018) ISBN-13: 978-1501832574
- Jennifer Lord, *Finding Language and Imagery: Words for Holy Speech* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009); ISBN-13: 978-0800663537
- Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach* (Louisville: WJKP, 2010) ISBN-13: 978-0664233327.