

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Preaching the Parables of Jesus

TERM: Spring 2023-2024

PROFESSOR: Angela Dienhart Hancock

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 20
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The parables of Jesus pose a unique challenge for preachers. This course introduces the genre of parable in the New Testament, maps the history of parable interpretation, considers current approaches to the synoptic parables in biblical studies and homiletics, and introduces options for faithfully and imaginatively proclaiming the parables of Jesus today in a variety of ministry contexts.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course forms practical theologians who will:

- exhibit a working knowledge of the ways the parables of Jesus have been interpreted over the centuries and the variety of approaches to the parables in biblical studies and homiletics today.
- develop and articulate a personal hermeneutical and exegetical approach to the task of parable interpretation for preaching, with attention to the creative re-presentation of parables in particular ministry contexts.
- demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the course material through the creation and delivery of two sermons based on a narrative parable, a similitude, or an extended metaphor from one of the synoptic gospels.
- critically evaluate the sermons of others, with particular attention to the way exegetical choices came to expression in the preaching event.

PREREQUISITES: NT110 [**Preferred:** PR210, TH210]

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Gowler, David B. *The Parables After Jesus: Their Imaginative Receptions Across Two Millennia*, Baker, 2017, ISBN: 978-0801049996, \$15.15
- Jackson, Glenna S. "Hippos are Vegetarians, Right?": Teaching and Learning Parables in an African Context (Canvas)
- Jordan, Clarence and Doulos, Bill Lane, *Cotton Patch Parables of Liberation* (excerpt, Canvas)
- Levine, Amy-Jill. *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, HarperOne, 2015, ISBN: 978-0061561030, \$9.99
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible* (excerpt, Canvas)
- Lowry, Eugene. *How to Preach a Parable* (excerpt, Canvas)
- Scott, Bernard Brendan. *Re-Imagine the World: An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*, Polebridge Press, 2001, ISBN: 978-0944344866, \$15.81
- Selected sermons (Canvas)

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES: Lecture, discussion, performance, preaching, group homiletical criticism.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- Reading/lecture Quizlets (5) - 30%
- Parable performances (2) - 20% [a contemporary re-telling, a multi-media presentation, a piece of visual art, a spoken word piece, a musical setting, a speaking choir script, etc.]
- Sermon I and Text-to-Sermon Log - 25%
- Sermon II and Text-to-Sermon Log - 25%

ATTENDANCE: Required