

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 and Communication in Ministry

TERM: Spring 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Jennifer Carner (in-person); Angela Hancock (Hybrid)

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the theology and practice of preaching, with attention to the performative skills involved in effective communication in ministry settings. Topics include: the oral interpretation of Scripture, biblical exegesis for proclamation, the role of culture and context in preaching, the structure and rhetoric of sermons, and the non-verbal dimensions of communication.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify gifts for and calling to the task of Christian proclamation
- Define and describe the theological and methodological issues at stake in the movement from a biblical text to a sermon in relation to a particular congregational context
- Give evidence of growth in the exegetical, rhetorical, creative, pastoral, and performative skills involved in the practice of preaching and communication in ministry
- Demonstrate working knowledge of the basic exegetical method and approaches to sermon design introduced in class through the creation and delivery of two sermons
- Exhibit the capacity to think critically and deeply about one's own practice and listen with discernment to the sermons of others, using the theological and rhetorical language of homiletical criticism

PREREQUISITES:

NT110, OT110, CS110

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Brown, Sally and Luke Powery. *Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place* (Fortress, 2016), ISBN: 978-0800699222, \$24.51
- Davis, Ellen. *Wondrous Depth: Preaching the Old Testament* (WJK Press, 2005), ISBN: 978-0664228590, \$17.92
- Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*, 3rd Edition, Thomas Long (WJK Press, 2017), ISBN: 978-0664261429, \$23.49
- Other required readings will be available on the course portal

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- 15% Speech performative exercises and class participation
- 25% Sermon 1 (written and preached, including text-to-sermon log)
- 30% Sermon 2 (written and preached, including text-to-sermon log)
- 10% Midterm take-home assessment
- 5% Brief ethnography of context (Sermon 2)
- 15% Capstone Sermon Analysis

ATTENDANCE: Required.