

IN 345 Word-Image-Imagination

Instructors: Martin Lohrmann and Jennifer Agee

Course may be taken synchronously or asynchronously.

Three semester hours; credit/no credit only.

Description

This course examines the relationship between a creating God and a creative humanity, especially as joined in Christ the Word and Image of God. Together we will think artistically about theology and theologically about art. Additionally, participants will blend study of scripture, the Christian tradition, and contemporary cultures with the production of creative works. These open-ended, participant-driven, multi-media projects will build capacity for the many ways that church leaders are effective producers of good content in their contexts.

Objectives

1. To think theologically and aesthetically about Word, image, and imagination
2. To study, learn, and build skills for effective gospel communication and expression through engagement with biblical, literary, musical, and visual arts
3. To design, produce, and reflect upon creative projects for use in ministry settings

These course objectives reflect and serve Wartburg's 12 Pastoral-Diaconal Practices, especially the Practice of *Missio Dei* in Word and Sacrament, the Practice of Curiosity, and the Practice of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others.

Procedure and Evaluation

A combination of class discussion, presentations, assigned reading, and shared activities will guide our learning. Student engagement with the course objectives will be assessed on the basis of participation, assignments, and a cumulative project.

Required Reading

Robert Alter, *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2000).

Kristin Kobes Du Mez, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* (Liveright, 2020).

Makoto Fujimura, *Art and Faith: A Theology of Making* (Yale, 2021).

Charles Lattimore Howard, *The Bottom: A Theopoetics of the Streets* (Changemakers, 2020).

Corita Kent and Jan Steward, *Learning by Heart: Teachings to Free the Creative Spirit* (Allworth, 2008).

Otis Moss III, *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair* (Westminster John Knox, 2015).

Recommended Reading

Jennifer Agee, *Systematic Mythology: Imagining the Invisible* (Wipf and Stock, 2018).