

## **MN 230 Preaching**

Dr. Samantha Gilmore, with Dr. Troy Troftgruben

Residential, Synchronous, and Asynchronous

Three credits (credit/no credit only)

**Description:** This introductory preaching course is designed to equip students to preach theologically informed, biblically faithful, contextually astute sermons that proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified in a congregational setting. Topics will include a distinctly Lutheran theology of preaching, preaching between font and table, and preaching from the Hebrew Bible.

**Place Within the Curriculum:** This course is required of all M.Div. students and is intended to be taken in the fourth semester. This allows students to develop a biblical and theological foundation from which to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified. No previous preaching experience is required. It is highly recommended that students complete HT212 Lutheran Confessions prior to taking this course.

**Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will have begun to:

1. Cultivate a working theological understanding of what makes Lutheran preaching a distinctive form of proclamation (*Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel*).
2. Integrate and develop coherence between personal faith and public vocation in order that a genuine personal authenticity can be perceived by the hearers (*Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity*).
3. Strengthen and free the speaking voice for fully embodied proclamation (*Practice of Complex Analysis; Practice of Curiosity*).
4. Develop the following essential competencies:
  - a. interpret biblical texts for preaching through the hermeneutical lens of Law and Gospel (*Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel*)
  - b. develop a discipline of preaching preparation that honors the holiness of the task (*Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity*)
  - c. proclaim the gospel in a manner appropriate for a particular context and occasion (*Practice of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others; Practice of Immersion in the Context*)
  - d. compassionately receive and offer constructive feedback on preaching for the sake of faithful and meaningful proclamation of the gospel in the world (*Practice of Collegiality*)

**Procedure:** Teaching and learning methods will include 1) lecture, 2) group discussions and activities, 3) practicing imaginative and spiritual disciplines that aid in sustaining the preaching life, 4) embodied voice practices, and 5) preaching and post-preaching reflection.

**Assignments and Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on attendance and participation, a reflection paper, and preaching. They will proclaim the gospel in three minutes and preach three 8-to-10-minute sermons. They will preach 1) from one of the four Gospels, 2) on the occasion of a Baptism or the Eucharist, and 3) a Christmas or Easter sermon.

**Bibliography** (in addition to other chapters and articles as assigned):

*Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair*, Otis Moss III

*The Book of Concord*, Kolb and Wengert, eds.

*Theology is for Proclamation*, Gerhard Forde