

MN 331W Preaching the Gospel on Diverse Occasions: Weddings, Funerals, Public Crises

Dr. Samantha Gilmore

Residential and Synchronous Only

Two credits (credit/no credit only)

Description: This preaching course is designed to help equip students to preach theologically informed, biblically faithful sermons that proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified in complex contexts that include weddings, funerals, and public crises (e.g., natural disasters, mass shootings, pandemics).

Place Within the Curriculum: This course is an advanced elective designed for M.Div. students who have taken or are currently in MN 230 Preaching.

Objectives: By the end of this course, students will:

1. Deepen their understanding of what the gospel of Christ crucified has to say in the face of great joy and deep pain. (*Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel*).
2. Consider the complexities of proclaiming the gospel in groups that include Christians and non-Christians from all walks of life (*Practice of Complex Analysis*).
3. Practice a trauma-responsive homiletic that meets people with the gospel where they are (*Practice of Pastoral Concern*).

Procedure: Teaching and learning methods will include 1) lecture, 2) group discussions and activities, and 3) preaching and post-preaching reflection.

Assignments and Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on attendance, participation, and preaching. They will preach two sermons. They will preach 1) a wedding or funeral sermon and 2) on the occasion of a public crisis.

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

Kairos Preaching: Speaking Gospel to the Situation, David Schnasa Jacobsen and Robert Allen Kelly

Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma, Kimberly R. Wagner