

## **IN 345 Word-Image-Imagination**

Instructors: Martin Lohrmann and Susan Forshey

Course may be taken synchronously or asynchronously.

Three semester hours; credit/no credit only.

### **Description**

This course explores the relationship between a creating God and a creative humanity, especially as joined in Jesus 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 original works. These open-ended multi-media projects will build capacity for the many ways that church leaders grow as effective producers of good content in their contexts.

### **Objectives**

1. To think theologically and aesthetically about Word, image, and imagination
2. To learn, explore, and build skills for effective gospel communication and expression through engagement with a variety resources and media.
3. To engage theology through attention to diverse cultures and artistic forms
4. To design, produce, and reflect upon creative projects for use in ministry settings

### **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**

Kathryn B. Alexander, *Saving Beauty: A Theological Aesthetics of Nature* (Fortress, 2014).

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).

Harry Farra, *The Little Monk* (Paulist Press, 1994).

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

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