Word Image Imagination
Wartburg Theological Seminary
S.D. Giere and Sam Gilmore
Spring 2026
Required for Final Year M.Div. Students
Credit/No Credit Only

Course Description

Word Image Imagination is an experiment in observing and participating in the ripple effect of the incarnation of the Eternal Word (finitum capax infiniti), the ultimate expression of the Triune God's reconciliation of all things to Godself. We will engage creativity and imagination in a variety of media as a means of opening our horizons to the human condition and the variegated texture of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The environment of the class values students risking failure, cultivating and embracing their own voice as people called to the ministry of the Word, and wondering about and delighting in God's good yet broken creation, all for the sake of the gospel.

Place Within the Curriculum

This course is required of all M.Div. students and is intended to be taken in the final semester. MADM students are also welcome.

Reading List

Required
The Sense of Wonder – Rachel Carson
On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft – Stephen King
Christianity Rediscovered – Vincent J. Donovan
Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre – Keith Johnstone
Poems, short stories, films as assigned (e.g., Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Maya Angelou, Flannery O'Connor, Mary Oliver, J.R.R. Tolkien)

Recommended
Freedom and Imagination: Trusting Christ in an Age of Bad Faith – S.D. Giere
Systematic Mythology: Imagining the Invisible – Jennifer Agee
Till We Have Faces – C.S. Lewis