Course Profile

Course # and Title: ML 403 (CA15) A Encountering the Living Word: An Introduction to Preaching
Instructor: Jan Rippentrop
Semester/Year: Fall 2016

Course Rationale and Description
(Why do we offer this course? Which of LSTC’s degree program learning outcomes does it address?)

In this course, we are going to explore preaching as a result, practice and event of the Christian faith life. Together, we will notice what leads toward preaching, what happens through preaching, and what is at stake in this communal event. Therefore, in this course, we will focus on behaviors, being and processing rather than memorization of facts. We are going to do preaching as a way to learn about it.

We will sharpen growing homiletical skills, explore the roles of assembly, text, and voice in relation to the preaching act. In our large plenary time, we will unpack the readings, expand on the foundations of Christian preaching, and discover more about how each of us embodies the preaching act. We will also meet in small group preaching labs to listen deeply to one another’s sermons and give constructive, critical feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes (Learners will be able to):
(What difference will this course make to students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)

1. Acquire skills in listening to a biblical text toward the homiletical task
2. Begin to learn methods and skills of sermon development
3. Appreciate the need to proclaim to a particular community.
4. Gain sensitivity in listening to who the people are who hear your sermon.
5. Broaden your experiences of developing and presenting various kinds of sermons.
6. Develop a better understanding of your voice as proclaimer of the Word.
7. Practice giving truthful, compassionate and critical feedback to colleagues.
8. Work on the ability to analyze one’s own preaching accurately.

Strategies for Learning:
(How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)

Students preparing for Christian ministry in congregations and religious leadership in other contexts study preaching in order to lead and accompany people of faith, proclaiming God’s Word in the important work
of formation—both in Christian faith and for the life of the world. To do this kind of preparation, we will seek to create a community of learning in which we all are accountable to one another. Thus, your presence, preparation, and participation in class and preaching labs are indispensable. Like in the political and social sphere, in the classroom we all suffer when all voices are not heard. For this reason, attendance and full participation are mandatory. We will engage in forming ourselves as proclaimers of the Word through readings, responses to readings, plenary sessions, preaching, giving feedback, a mini ethnographic inquiry, and consideration of public presence.

**Assessment:**
(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

This course is credit/no credit (pass/fail) because we need to concentrate on risk taking, change, growth, and development. The instructor offers feedback by responding in a timely manner to each project; learners access the feedback and continue to ponder former projects even as they begin new projects. Learners offer one another feedback during preaching labs, and preachers reflect on their own sermons. Students offer course feedback through course evaluations, which are indispensible because these evaluations inform course content and style and change subsequent class sessions.

**Bibliography:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They Like to Never Quit Praisin God</td>
<td>Frank A. Thomas (Pilgrim)</td>
<td>978-0829819786</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Witness of Preaching</td>
<td>Thomas G. Long (WKJ)</td>
<td>978-0664229436</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Preaching Life</td>
<td>Barbara Brown Taylor (Cowley)</td>
<td>978-1561010745</td>
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Additional information:

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