

**MNST 5212 INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING**  
**Spring 2010, Monday and Wednesday, 3:15 to 4:45 pm**  
**Paul Koptak, Nyvall 38 ([pkoptak@northpark.edu](mailto:pkoptak@northpark.edu)) 773-244-6242**

In this course you will develop a biblical theology of communication and preaching, learn the principles of sermon construction, and put both into practice as you speak to the class and receive critique.

**Course Goals**

1. That you appreciate the need for a theology of preaching and begin to develop your own in conversation with those who have written and spoken about it.
2. That you take your place as a preacher in the tradition of the world-wide church of Jesus Christ.
3. That you learn how to move from the study of a biblical text to delivery of a sermon in the context of a congregation's life and worship.
4. That you will carry with you a lifelong focus on the character of God and the good news of the Gospel in your preaching.

While the course in some ways supports all of the learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree, it emphasizes the following:

- Living and working under Scripture's authority by knowing the Bible in its original languages and engaging responsibly in the interpretation and application of its teaching
- Developing a mature theological and ethical perspective within which to reflect and act
- Understanding the Christian tradition and one's own place within it
- The ability to communicate effectively through spoken and written media
- Developing a clear pastoral identity

**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation in class exercises and discussion. Chronic lateness or unexcused absence will reduce your grade. 5%

Note: more than one absence for any reason (sickness or other emergency) makes an impact on course learning and will require a make-up assignment of extra reading from the recommended book list or a sermon critique. If you have to be absent, it is your responsibility to talk with me about the assignment.

2. One personal narrative presentation. (videotaped) 5%
3. One Scripture reading and biblical narrative presentation (videotaped). 20%

4. Two sermons preached to the class (videotaped). 30% each
5. An appointment with the instructor to review your first videotaped sermon (Grade reduction for non-completion).
6. All assigned readings and responses, including response to Palmquist Lectures. You will submit a list of readings completed at the end of the course. (10%)

### **Course Texts**

#### Required:

1. Richard Lischer, ed. *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching from Augustine to the Present* (2002)
2. Paul Scott Wilson, *The Practice of Preaching*, revised edition (2007)
3. Frank A. Thomas, *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching* (1997)
4. Thomas E. Boomershine, *Story Journey: An Invitation to the Gospel as Storytelling* (1988)
5. Glen Wiberg, *Housing the Sacred* (Covenant Publications, 2009)

#### Recommended:

6. G. Robert Jacks, *Getting the Word Across and Just Say the Word!*
7. Doug Lipman, *Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work or Play*
8. Carol Norén, *The Woman in the Pulpit*
9. Ella Mitchell, *Those Preachin' Women*
10. Justo L. Gonzalez and Pablo A. Jiménez, *Pulpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching*
11. Jung Young Lee, *Korean Preaching: An Interpretation*
12. Henry Mitchell, *Black Preaching: the Recovery of a Powerful Art*
13. Fred Craddock, *Preaching*
14. R. Lischer and W. Willimon, eds., *The Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*
15. Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Preaching From the Old Testament*
16. Ellen Davis, *Wondrous Depths: Preaching from the Old Testament*
17. Thomas Long, *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible* and *The Witness of Preaching*
18. Ronald Allen, ed. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*
19. Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, 2nd edition
20. *Covenant Book of Worship*