Instructors
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Course Description
*Preaching as the Word of God* is an exploration of preaching as an interpretive act through which God continues to speak to God’s people today. The course revolves around reflecting on and practicing the art of interpretation in light of our current cultural situation. By moving between the practices of interpretation and engagement with the culture in which we interpret, participants discover and assess their own theology of the word and how it informs their preaching.

Learning Goals
This first core course in the Biblical Preaching Doctor of Ministry program challenges participants to explore, develop, and articulate their understanding of preaching as the Word of God by engaging the following questions:
- What do we mean by when we speak of “the Word of God”?
- How does preaching relate to Scripture?
- How do our distinct cultural contexts inform our understanding of Scripture and preaching?
- What are the most effective ways to interpret Scripture for preaching today?
- What demands does our understanding of God’s Word make upon our preaching?
- What do we mean by “biblical preaching” in light of our particular cultural context?

By addressing their issues and through their work with each other and the faculty leaders, students will emerge from this course
- able to describe with some confidence the cultural context in which we preach
- so as to articulate a “theology of the Word” in relation to that context,
- with an interpretive lens and developing practice for reading and studying Scripture for preaching effectively and faithfully today.

Procedure
The course will meet for sixteen ninety-minute sessions over five days; the topics governing each day are listed below. Class time will incorporate *presentations* by the instructor, *discussion* of these presentations and the assigned material, and *homiletical exercises* led by student participants (see “Required Work” #3). Note that coursework is not completed until the required sermon and accompanying materials have been submitted to the instructor.
Schedule
June 3  Introduction to Core 1: What do We Mean by “Biblical Preaching” Today
1:30-4:30 p.m.

June 4  The Changed and Changing World and Church in Which We Preach
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

June 5  “What Does This Mean?” – Issues of Interpretation for Preacher & Hearer
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

June 6  Cultivating a “Biblical Imagination”
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

June 7  Biblical Authority & Preaching in a Post-Christian Church
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Required Work
Including the periods before, during, and after the week of class meetings, this course requires the following five kinds of work:

1. Read and view all required material prior to the first class session.

2. Attendance at and participation in all class sessions which reflects comprehension and use of required material.

3. Leading a 25-30 minute homiletical exercise involving either a sermon or significant exegetical work toward a sermon. In these exercises, the presenter receives significant critical feedback on a sermon and peers receive practice in critical reflection on the task of preaching. These exercises should be compromised of one of the following activities, shared with the other participants during the week of class meetings, and scheduled at the first class session (participant presentations begin on Tuesday afternoon):
   - Videotape of a sermon (or portion thereof) from the student-participant’s congregation that addresses the issues germane to this course;
   - Sermon or a “work in progress” preached in class that addresses issues germane to this course;
   - Report and discussion of exegetical proposal for a future sermon that seeks to incorporate and/or demonstrate central issues of the course.
   - Review of one of the recommended books in relation to an actual sermon recently preached or one currently “in the works.”
   - Identifying a cultural medium (film, novel, television program, cultural event) that bears on the topics of class. That is, what in our culture impedes, complicates, assists, challenges, or offers an opportunity your developing theology of proclamation?

Please note! Participants should be completely prepared to present at the start of the week. Last-minute decisions reflect poor planning and lead to weak presentations.

4. One sermon to be preached and recorded on September 15. (If this date is problematic, you may choose the Sunday immediately before or after.)
5. A 1-2 page exegetical report, and 3-5 page reflection paper, on the sermon mentioned in #4, following the guidelines for such papers to be supplied during class.

Bibliography

**Required Materials**


**Recommended Materials**


