

## STMA Preaching the Word: Homiletics (3 credits)

Tuesdays: 1:30pm – 4:20pm  
March 27, 2012 – May 29, 2012  
Hunt 100: first and last class  
Ecumenical Chapel: all other sessions

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Appointments by arrangement

### Course Description:

Introduces the student to the theological context and practical dynamics of preaching. This beginning course centers on preparation methods, presentation skills and critical review tested in actual preaching by the students in the class sessions. Competencies include public speaking/proclamation, coherent organization and convincing presentation, theological understanding and vocational readiness.

### Course Objectives:

The course description above makes clear the practical nature of this course. The student is working simultaneously on the mechanics of public proclamation, the content of good homilies, an underlying theology of preaching and a personal assessment of pulpit readiness. These are the competencies noted above. Most of the time each week comprises actual preaching of homilies by students and shared critique of their efforts. Competencies are explored as applicable to the actual experience of preaching.

“Homily” implies preaching in a liturgical context where reading(s) of Scripture precedes the preaching and some form of ritual follows. The homily takes the assembly from the message of the Scripture to participation in the ritual action (shared prayer, blessing, communion, et. al.) that follows.

**Learning Outcomes:** No learning outcomes specific to the MAPS and MDIV degrees focus on preaching, but the work in these sessions will certainly speak to

- ✓ Ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian Tradition.
- ✓ Ability to articulate one’s relationship with God, as it is informed by theological reflection in one’s social context.
- ✓ Ability to articulate and live from an understanding of self as human, minister, and leader.

**Course Texts:** all are required

Allen, O.Wesley, ed. *The Renewed Homiletic*. Minneapolis, Fortress, 2010.

DeBona, Gueric. *Fulfilled in Our Hearing*. New York: Paulist, 2005.

DeLeers, Stephen V. *Written Text Becomes Living Word*. Collegeville: Liturgical, 2004.

**Course Requirements**

Each student will be required to proclaim a biblical text and preach a homily at least three times during the quarter and to participate in the critical reflection on each other student's proclamation and preaching. Students are not allowed to preach homilies completely written out – this turns into a reading exercise. A small card(s) with key points or quotes is allowed. A lectern will be available, but students are encouraged to step out in front of the class.

Preaching will be camera recorded and made available to the student in a disc format that will play in the media capability of your computer. The cumulative record of preaching should provide an assessment of progress.

Students are responsible for reading and reporting on one book or three substantial articles about preaching. One typed page must be prepared for distribution in class including:

- ✓ several paragraphs summarizing the content and approach of the book
- ✓ an assessment of what this book helps people learn about preaching
- ✓ a few critical cautions spelled out for prospective readers

Each student will deliver a ten-minute oral report on their chosen book/articles. Since the class has the basic information about the text [cf. above], this report will help the class to understand what the presenter has gained from the work. Previous work from students is available for ideas, but finding one's own resources, especially touching on expectations in one's own ecclesial community, is encouraged.

**Grading Criteria**

Preaching evaluations count a great deal, not so much as assessments of raw talent, but as markers of improvement during the quarter. In other words, the constructive feedback from students and instructor week after week is already a part of the grading for the course.

That makes attendance and active participation in the critical review process count for a great deal as well. Recognizing what works (or not) and being able to articulate that observation in a helpful way to the preacher is an essential part of the learning in this course and for one's own future preaching efforts.

Doing the preaching, reviewing of classmates and book reporting – all in a careful, consistent, and critical manner will meet the requirements for a B grade. Outstanding achievements in these areas will notch the grade toward an A.