COURSE DESCRIPTION
HOM5/718 - Ministry for Decades, Not Just Next Week:
The Preaching Life for the Long Haul
Vancouver School of Theology SUMMER 2019

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PURPOSE:
The preaching life has long arc of pastoral attention, political concerns, biblical faithfulness, theological acumen, and personal satisfaction. In this class we will consider the village, so to speak, that it takes to raise a long haul preacher: saints who have gone before, excellent contemporary preachers, the theological and pastoral places out of and into which we speak, and habits for nourishing the practice.

We will examine theology, sermons, autobiography, and personal essays. We will talk about studying for preaching and making the time. We will think about the radical root of our sermons, the meaning we are communicating. We will look at trends in theology and figure out how to preach them because they matter to people’s lives. We will make a structure for thematic preaching and how to leave the common lectionary, even while respecting its merits. We will create a plan for sermons that keep the preacher excited. We will celebrate preaching as a vocation, and find resources to maintain that vocation. We will make serious consideration of the connection between pastoral care and preaching. And we will fortify against the three menaces: boredom, irrelevance, and echo chambers.

The purpose of the class is to prepare a sustained preaching life that brings depth to your listeners and gives you reason to hop out of bed with joy every morning.

EXPECTATIONS AND COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:
Students will leave this course with resources for long-term ministry in preaching. Each person will have created a sermon series, absorbed an understanding of the heritage of preaching, and articulated the vocation of preaching in the light of their denomination’s Standards of Practice. Students will build a network of resources for a long preaching life.

REQUIRED READINGS: all readings should be done before class starts

John Updike, In the Beauty of the Lilies
Catherine MacLean and John Young, Preaching the Big Questions: Doctrine Isn’t Dusty
any full chapter plus the introduction
Mike Graves, ed. What’s the Matter with Preaching Today?

Students should purchase their own copies through WLU Press, UCRD, or Amazon.
ASSIGNMENTS
1. Reading and class participation: All Students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings and participate in class discussions. 100% attendance is required of Certificate and Degree students.
2. Certificate students: Certificate students are required to hand in 5-6 pages of writing that demonstrates the ability to thoughtfully engage the material and reading for the class and gives a personal reflection on the reading and material covered.
3. Basic degree students (Diploma; MA; M.Div): are required to do any required oral assignments during the course itself and submit any combination of written assignments totaling approximately 1500-1875 words/6-8 pages.
4. Advanced degree students (Th.M): are required to do any required oral assignments during the course itself and submit any combination of written assignments totaling approximately 3750-4250 words/15-17 pages.

Further details about assignments will be provided on the course syllabus.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

M. Craig Barnes, *The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life*
Molly Phinney Baskette, *Real Good Church: how our church came back from the dead, and yours can, too*
William J. Carl III, *Best Advice: Wisdom on Ministry from 30 Leading Pastors and Preachers*
Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver, *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*
Douglas John Hall, *Bound and Free: A Theologian’s Journey*
Stanley Hauerwas, *Hannah’s Child: A Theologian’s Memoir*
Michelle Obama, *Becoming*
Eugene Peterson, *The Pastor*
Don Schweitzer, Robert C. Fennell, Michael Bourgeois, editors, *The Theology of The United Church of Canada*
Phil Snider, ed. *Preaching Resistance: Voices of Hope, Justice, & Solidarity*
Lois Wilson, *I Want to Be in That Number: Cool Saints I Have Known*