

> > > COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: PREACHING & WORSHIP

The purpose of preaching and worship classes, both lectures and practicums, relates to the practice of ministry, particularly communication. Preaching courses teach theory and practice. Worship classes discuss theology and function. Church music explores historical, contemporary, and theoretical appreciations. Speech classes and practicums deal not only with rhetoric but also pulpit and drama how-to. In brief, the Area of Preaching and Worship seeks to help the student improve communication with God, others, and self. This Area applies classical, historical, and systematic studies to the life of the church. The Area offers the tools that engender a lifelong growth pattern toward ever-increasingly improved communication. Area faculty members believe that graduates can become initiators and encouragers for the development of communication skills, particularly preaching, worship, and music, in their congregations, and among their disciples.

Preaching courses emphasize expository and inductive directions; the focus of worship courses rests in showing the power and purpose of worship with a view to leadership; the focus of music moves in the direction of viewing music as integral to the totality of Christian ministry; and the focus of speech is on skills development for communication.

The M.Div. degree prepares students for the communication of the gospel through preaching, worship, and music.

Students ready to graduate will:

1. Articulate a theology of preaching for proclamation;
2. Demonstrate the ability to prepare biblical sermons;
3. Demonstrate the ability to deliver the sermon;
4. Demonstrate appropriate behavior in all forms of worship; and
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the music of worship as a means of grace.

The M.Div. requires both a core course and core elective courses within the Area of Preaching and Worship. The required core course is SP501 Communication for Christian Leaders. In addition, 6 hours of core electives in Proclamation are to be chosen from two of the following course prefixes: MU (Music), PR (Preaching), and WO (Worship). For Music and Worship courses, students may choose courses within the following ranges: MU510-549 and WO510-549. For Preaching courses, students may choose courses within the range, PR610-649.

Having successfully completed the core elective requirement in Music, students should be able to:

1. Articulate a basic understanding of how music functions in Christian worship.
2. Articulate a theology and philosophy of music that orients one's practices in Christian worship.
3. Evidence familiarity with varied corporate worship styles and articulate how music functions fruitfully in each.
4. Demonstrate awareness of music and musical resources for worship, including special services of worship (e.g., funerals, weddings, baptisms)
5. Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the broad-based history of the use of music in Christian worship.

Having successfully completed the core elective requirement in Preaching, students should be able to:

1. Relate principles of exegesis to the effective communication of the faith;
2. Articulate a variety of means by which to communicate the gospel;
3. Demonstrate the ability to deliver sermons within the context of worship; and
4. Demonstrate awareness that preaching calls for imagination and clear communication in the context of personal, social, and cultural challenges.

Having successfully completed the core elective requirement in Worship, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understand of the diversity of ways of Christian worship, together with self-critical perspective on one's own preferences and commitments in worship;
2. Enrich congregational worship in prayer, word, and sacraments; and
3. Make sound worship decisions based on historical, theological, and pastoral concerns.