Combining the substance of an introduction with the intimacy of a workshop, this course will explore theological and rhetorical foundations for preaching and provide practical experience in delivery and critique. Noting variety among denominational, theological and cultural traditions, the course will take an ecumenical approach rooted by an affirmation of the hermeneutic centrality of Scripture and the liturgical significance of preaching. Students will complete written assignments and special exercises, preach, and offer constructive critiques of sermons.

Mondays, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., beginning September 11, 2017 (14 weeks)

Syllabus

Course Objectives:
Participants will cultivate exegetical and hermeneutical skills for preaching.
Participants will understand the connection between their theology and preaching.
Participants will examine a variety of rhetorical strategies (forms/structures) to sustain congregational interest.
Participants will broaden their communication skills for effective sermon delivery within the tradition from which they emanate.

Note:
While the course is fundamentally Christian, other traditions may benefit from the practicum skill-based approach to speaking in the public square.

Course Requirements:
Class attendance is a must. Excused absence will be granted, but more than two absences will result in a 10% lowering of the grade.
Participation in class requires assigned readings and preparation to lead group discussion with a 15 minute overview of assigned topic.
Preparation and delivery of several sermons are required. Please see full outline for details. All written assignments must conform to Hartford Seminary writing guidelines. (Please check: www.hartsem.edu/student/forms/researchpaperguide.pdf.)
will use the official Hartsem student email addresses for all communications. Please check your Hartsem email account regularly.

**Class Schedule**

**September 11:** Review of Syllabus and course requirements and Lecture

**September 18:** Lecture: “Why Preach, Why Listen”. Read: Craddock, *Preaching* and be prepared for discussion.

**September 25:** Video Taped First Sermon

**October 2:** Lecture: “Why Preach, Why Listen.” (continued)
Read: Allen, *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*.

**October 9:** Models of situational sermons lecture and discussion.
Read: Allen, “Patterns of Preaching” or Childers, editor.
"Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process".

**October 16:** Developing your style.
Read: Broadus, *On the Preparation and Delivery of the Sermon* Pages 200 – 331 (the book is on reserve in the library).

**October 23:** Developing a passion and plan for preaching special occasions.
Read: Aden and Hughes, “Preaching God’s Compassion.”

*Further Reading: Long, Accompany Them with Singing
Powery, Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope*

**October 30:** Sermons for Special Occasions and Funeral Homilies
Prepare a five to ten minute funeral homily for class based on a case study, which you will describe to the class before preaching. Sermons will be graded on your ability to articulate the Gospel and/or tradition in light of the life of the deceased and the pastoral-theological context. A manuscript of your homily and a brief one-page description of your case study should be emailed to the instructor (bwatts@hartsem.edu) no later than Thursday morning prior to class.

**November 6:** Understanding the importance of the wedding Homily.
Read: Hedahl, “Preaching the Wedding Sermon”.
November 13: The Wedding Homily
Prepare a five to ten minute wedding homily for class based on a case study, which you will describe to the class before preaching. Sermons will be graded on your ability to articulate the Gospel and or tradition in light of the life of the couple's relationship and the wider pastoral-theological context. A manuscript of your homily and a brief one-page description of your case study should be emailed to the instructor (bwatts@hartsem.edu) no later than Thursday morning prior to class.

November 20: Reading Week - No Class

November 27: Models of Situational Preaching and Telling the Story
Please review the Allen book and choose one situational model for your next presentation. Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Crisis Preaching
- Preaching on Social Issues,
- Doctrinal Sermon,
- Preaching on the Sacraments,
- Evangelistic Preaching,
- Stewardship Sermon,
- Ethical Issues
- Children’s Sermon

Read: Taylor. "The Preaching Life"

December 4: Situational Preaching Assigned Presentation.
Prior to your next class, read: Mitchell, "Celebration" and Stanley, "Communicating for a Change" and be prepared for discussion.

December 11: Final Sermon delivered in class from a text selected by your instructor.
This will be an opportunity for you to experiment and grow. Be creative and informative. Your sermon should be written in a complete manuscript form, but it can and should be delivered in the style with which you feel comfortable utilizing. Your manuscript, along with complete final
sermons, and your research and bibliography should be emailed to the instructor (bwatts@hartsem.edu) no later than Thursday morning prior to class.

December 18: Complete final sermon and course wrap up.

**BOOKS**

**Required Texts:**

**Recommended Text (for book review):**
Seminary Classroom Policies

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Academic honesty and integrity are expected of all students. Plagiarism exists when: a) the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the one submitting the work, b) parts of the work, whether direct quotations, ideas, or data, are taken from another source without acknowledgement, c) the whole work is copied from another source [especially a web based source], or d) significant portions of one’s own previous work used in another course. See “Plagiarism” at [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/).

**Appropriate Classroom etiquette and use of technology:** In order to respect the community within the classroom: 1) Mute all cell phones during class; 2) Utilize laptops for the sole purpose of taking class notes. Please do not surf the web, email, or other programs during class time. Such use of the computer during class is disrespectful of the class and professor, and may result in lowering your participation grade.

**Inclusive Language:**
Hartford Seminary is committed to a policy of inclusion in its academic life and mission. All members of the community are expected to communicate in language that reflects the equality of genders, openness to diverse cultural and theological perspectives, and sensitivity to one another’s images of God.

**Extensions:** Extensions for papers will be given for illnesses or family emergencies only in consultation with the instructor.

**Official Handbooks:** For all other questions you might have regarding policies or procedures, please check the student handbook [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/) and seminary policies at Academic policies are listed at [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/)