Lutheran Homiletics and Liturgics
GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—CHARLOTTE
January 2014

Instructor: Dr. Amy C. Schifrin, STS
Contact Information:
   Email: amyschifrin@yahoo.com
   Phone: 563-929-0909
Schedule of Class Meetings: 1/13-17, 1/20-24, 2014; 9:00am-12:00pm; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Catalog Course Description: The worship of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is at the center of our life together as his people. Through Word and Sacrament, God comes to us that we might render glory unto him. The liturgical portion of this course will prepare seminarians for pastoral liturgical leadership in Lutheran congregational settings. The Lutheran Book of Worship will serve as a template for practicums in basic liturgical skills. The homiletic portion of this course introduces students to the basic skills necessary to move from biblical text to homiletic proclamation within a Lutheran Eucharistic Rite. Emphases will be on basic writing skills and oral delivery. Students will have multiple opportunities to preach and receive feedback within the classroom setting.

Relation to Curriculum: This is a required course that satisfies the Liturgy and Preaching course requirements for NALC students in the M.Div. program with a concentration in Lutheran Studies program. This course may also be taken as an elective. A basic course in biblical exegesis is a pre-requisite.

Course Objectives in Liturgics: This course is designed to teach students the grammar and structure of a Lutheran interpretation of the Western Rite, as they simultaneously gain the requisite liturgical skills for presiding at the Divine Liturgy in Lutheran congregations. In the post-Christendom landscape of North America, pastors need to know ‘why they do what they do,’ and they need to preside with humility, with joy, and with the quiet confidence that comes from trusting that those who have been gathered into the assembly by the Holy Spirit will be drawn into the life of Risen Christ and brought to the Father’s heart. Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, liturgical history and theology, and ritual studies and performance practices will shape our lectures, discussion, and practicums so that the next generation of pastors will be prepared to faithfully lead congregations in giving glory to God. In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement and the stated learning outcomes that grow out of each article, I intend that upon completing of the course, students will:

1. Be well versed in the Scriptural roots of the Western Rite and be able to articulate the interrelationship between Holy Scripture and liturgy;
2. Understand the place of the Lutheran Reformers within liturgical history, especially in the arena of sacramental theology;
3. Speak and/or chant the liturgy with a growing confidence;
4. Be able lead a congregation in corporate liturgical prayer, including knowing where to place their bodies and how to move within the nave and chancel;
5. Capably produce doctrinally sound and liturgically fitting ordos for congregational use for the church year.

**Course Objectives in Homiletics:** This course is designed to introduce students to the art and craft of biblical preaching within a Lutheran expression the Divine Liturgy. Students will become familiar with 20th and 21st century homiletic theories and their doctrinal origins as they begin to design and deliver sermons to contemporary Christian assemblies. Students will work with the interplay of orality and literacy as they acquire competencies in addressing the lives of Christians in this day. By the completion of the course students should be able to grasp the basics of the classic Lutheran law/gospel dialectic and use it as hermeneutical resource for the shaping of their preaching from the Holy Scriptures. Preaching texts will be selected from the Revised Common Lectionary in order that students will have opportunity to prepare for liturgical leadership in Lutheran parishes. In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement and the stated learning outcomes that grow out of each article, I intend that upon completing of the course, students will:

1. Discover that the Word of God is reading them, as well as the assembly, as it is being proclaimed;
2. Understand that theology is meant for proclamation, and that all that they learn in exegetical, historical, confessional, systematic, and pastoral disciplines is of value to them as preachers as it shapes their understandings of the Holy Scriptures and of the purposes of preaching;
3. Know that pastoral care is a function of preaching, and that reading the context in which proclamation occurs is crucial to the communication of both law and gospel;
4. Experience the exegetical insights that come from praying the biblical texts as part of homiletic preparation;
5. That preaching as a performative doxological exegesis of the Word of God within the Eucharistic liturgy is a liturgical act intended to lead the assembly to thanksgiving and praise;
6. And that congruency of words and deeds are essential in the character of a Christian preacher.

**Course Requirements:** Achievement of the course objective will be measured through a variety of assignments. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend approximately 160 hours devoted to coursework; both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments Homiletics and Liturgics</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading, Reflection Papers, and Book review</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class lecture/discussion/practicums</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgical Alphabet</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orders of Service</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing exercises/preaching</td>
<td>15 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon preparation</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
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**Required Textbooks in Liturgics:**


**Recommended Texts in Liturgics:**


**Required Textbooks in Homiletics:**


**Recommended Texts in Homiletics:**


**Course Assignments In Liturgics:**
1. **Reading for Class Discussion and Reflection Papers (20 points):** Students will write one reflection paper of 1000-1200 words on both: Hahn and Saliers.

2. **A Liturgical Alphabet of Grace (10 points):** Write your thoughts, learnings, important quotes, the “graces” you hear and experience in the liturgy: whatever you think you need to know (from memory) by the time you are called to a parish. For example, “A” is for Absolution or Architecture; “B” is for Baptism, etc. etc. Write one page (double-spaced) per letter.

3. **Orders of Service (10 points):** Submit four orders of service using the following specifications for the assigned Sundays of the church year along with a paragraph or two regarding your choice:
   1. LBW Setting I, II, or III and all LBW hymns for Lent 1, year A
   2. An LBW Setting with hymns from LBW, WOV, and TFF for Easter 2, year A
   3. A Chorale Setting (see LBW p. 120 or WOV, Setting VI as models) for The Day of Pentecost, Year A
   4. LBW or any hymnal or liturgical resources of your choice for Pentecost 16/Proper 21, year A (9/28/14)

4. **Participation in Practicums (10 points):** A part of each day will be set aside to work on the vocal and physical skills necessary for presiding. Active participation is required. Students will receive both faculty and peer critiques.

**Course Assignments in Homiletics:**
1. **Reading for Class Discussion (10 points):** Students will come to the task of preaching having heard specific preachers with varying hermeneutics and styles. The assigned readings present a greater historical sweep, so that students may begin to see the art and craft of preaching beyond the limits of their prior experience. Readings will also aid in formal sermon construction and in practical guidance for delivery.

2. **Homiletic Writing (5 points):** Class sessions will include time for short assignments
aimed at increasing skill in homiletic writing. Learning the differences between linear and aggregative ways of communication, between expositional and evocative writing, and between a recitation of data and incarnational preaching is an art that is developed over time. These short daily exercises will become building blocks for a lively homiletic that is both doctrinally sound and capable of moving the heart.

3. Sermon Preparation and Delivery (30 points): This is the heart of our work together. Four sermon manuscripts, along with exegetical notes and analyses, will be required of all students. The first two sermons will be preached and evaluated in class, the second two manuscripts will be sent in by the February 17 deadline. Preaching texts from both the Old and New Testaments will be assigned from the current lectionary cycle and will be a mix of Festival Days and Ordinary Time.

4. Book Review (5 points): All students will be required to write a 500-750 word review of Richard Lischer’s *A Theology of Preaching: The Dynamics of the Gospel*. Lischer’s book sets forth the classic law/gospel dialectic within a resurrection hermeneutic. Before Lutheran preacher’s can use this lens for interpreting the Holy Scriptures, they must understand this underlying resurrection hermeneutic. A careful reading of Lischer, coupled with written reflection, will give students an opportunity to express the nature of the law/gospel dialectic in their own voice and thus adding it to their repertoire of homiletic tools.

**Grading Scale:** The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student’s work is truly exceptional.

**Late work:** All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in later than February 20, will normally require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. Students who must miss a class period should notify me in advance to justify their absence. If a student has more than one unexcused absence from class, he/she will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on his/her final grade.

**Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements:** All written assignments should be submitted as MS-Word or PDF files. (If you use a word processor other than MS-Word, convert the file to a PDF before submitting it.) Assignments should be double-spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. All assignments must be submitted electronically.
**Syllabus Addendum:** For other Seminary policies, refer to the attached Syllabus Addendum

### Class Schedule and Liturgy Assignment Due Dates; Daily Reading Schedule TBA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>PRACTICUM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>The Biblical Roots of the Liturgy, Ritualizing and Canonization, The Ordo</td>
<td>A Primer for Presiders, movement and chant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Beginning and beginning again: Trinitarian language, Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, and Orders of Confession</td>
<td>Baptism, Individual Confession and Absolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>The Sanctification of Space and Time, Vestments, Church Architecture</td>
<td>Matins, Vespers, Compline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>The Church Year, The Entrance Rites</td>
<td>Apostolic Greeting, Kyrie, Collects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Preaching Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>The Liturgy of the Word, The Lectionary, Intercessory Prayer</td>
<td>The Public Reading of Scripture, Preparing for Public Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
<td>Eucharistic Prayer and Theology I Early Church and Reformation Orders</td>
<td>Setting the Table, Sursum Corda, Proper Preface</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 8</td>
<td>Eucharistic Prayer and Theology II 20th and 21st Century</td>
<td>Eucharistic Praying, Clearing the Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 9</td>
<td>Hymnody and Church Music</td>
<td>Congregational Singing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 10</td>
<td>Holy Week Weddings, Funerals, Occasional Services</td>
<td>Liturgies of the Triduum, Anointing, of the Sick, Commendation of the Dying</td>
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Final papers and *ordos* are due in by February 20, 2014.

### Class Schedule and Assignment Due Dates for Homiletics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING FOR DISCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>20th/21st C Homiletic Theories (Traditional and Kerygmatic Preaching)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Preaching of the Fathers and the Reformers</td>
<td>Pasquarrello, <em>Sacred</em></td>
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</table>
Rhetoric

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author/Reader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Law, Gospel, and a Resurrection Hermeneutic/Designing the Sermon I</td>
<td>Lischer, <em>A Theology of Preaching</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Preaching Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Reading, Writing, and Speaking for the Ear/Designing the Sermon II</td>
<td>Bartow, <em>The Preaching Moment</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
<td>Preaching and Prayer; Preaching and the Prophets; Preaching as Witness</td>
<td>Long, <em>The Witness of Preaching</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 8</td>
<td>Preaching and the Eucharist</td>
<td>Wallace, <em>Preaching in the Sunday Assembly</em>, 58-102 (recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 9</td>
<td>Exercises in Sermon Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 10</td>
<td><strong>Student Preaching II</strong></td>
<td></td>
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Final sermons and book review are due in by February 17, 2014.

**Syllabus Addendum**

**Academic Standards:**
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

**ADA Policy:**
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

**Cancellation of Class:**
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic
calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

**Extension Policy:**
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s *Academic Calendar*, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

**Grades:**
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals, who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

**Returned Work:**
If students desire to have his/her work returned with faculty commentary, they are asked to provide a self-addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Hard copies of student course work (that has been submitted electronically) will then be sent to the student.