I. Course Description

This course deals with the preacher as person and is designed to provide students with a perspective of how preachers are viewed in literature and film. With such a perspective, students will be better able to analyze literature and media and understand how they can best engage their culture with the gospel as ministers of that gospel. In addition, students will gain a better sense of who they are as preachers. PR 601 Preaching Principles and Practice is the prerequisite for the course. Master of Theology students may enroll in this course for Th.M. credit. Th.M. students are to see the professor on the first day of class.

II. Course Relation to the Curriculum

The Preacher in Modern Literature and Film helps the person preparing for a preaching ministry to understand how he or she is viewed by the surrounding culture and who he or she is as a preacher. This understanding allows the student to reflect theologically, biblically, historically, and practically on the role and function of the preacher.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should be able to: (1) Have a basic understanding of the way(s) preachers are portrayed in modern literature, media, and film by completing the assigned reading, by reading novels, by viewing films and television media, and by writing assigned papers. (2) Critically assess literature, media, and film by asking questions, by engaging in discussion, and by reflecting on their thinking as they integrate their analysis in course papers, particularly the two final papers. (3) Understand themselves as a preacher and as a person through the viewing of media, in-class discussions and in reflection report papers assigned for the course.
IV. Course Textbooks

Required:


Other reading assignments are listed below.

Recommended:


V. Course Requirements and Grading: Pre-Class (Week-Long Session) Preparation

1. Students will read Jan Karon, *At Home in Mitford* [New York: Penguin, 1994. Any edition.] before coming to the weeklong class. Write a three page (maximum) single-spaced paper using the following questions: a. What is the author saying about preachers? b. Discuss at least three things you learned from reading the book and how you’ll apply it to your life and thinking. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s. Report is due on Monday 15 June 2009. The book will be discussed in class.

2. Students will watch the movie *Signs* [2002] before coming to the weeklong class. Write a three page (maximum) single-spaced paper using the following questions: a. What is the movie saying about preachers? b. Discuss at least three things you learned from watching the film and how you’ll apply it to your life and thinking. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s. Report is due on Monday 15 June 2009. The movie will be discussed in class.

VI. Course Requirements and Grading: In-Class and Post-Class (After Week-Long Session) Assignments

1. In-Class: Attendance at all class periods. Students are expected to be on time for class. Late work will not be accepted.

2. In-Class: Students will participate in class discussions.

you learned from reading the book and how you’ll apply it to your life and thinking. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s.

4. Post-Class: Students will read Beaumont, The Message Behind the Movie. Write a two-page (maximum) single-spaced paper. Discuss at least three things you learned from reading the book and how you’ll apply it to your life and thinking. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s.

5. Post-Class: Students will read three novels of their choice from the bibliography provided in the syllabus and will write a paper that will analyze, critique, and provide lessons learned concerning the preacher as person. Be aware of the presuppositions and attitude of the author toward preachers. You may want to reflect on various scenes from each of the novels where you see yourself—and what people inside and outside the church can learn from such insights, as well as what you as a preacher can learn.

The paper is to be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, 12 point type. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s.

6. Post-Class: Students will watch three films of their choice from the bibliography provided in the syllabus and will write a paper that will analyze, critique, and provide lessons learned concerning the preacher as person. Once again, be aware of the presuppositions and attitude of the director/screenwriter, etc. toward preachers. You may want to reflect on various scenes from each of the films where you see yourself—and what people inside and outside the church can learn from such insights, as well as what you as a preacher can learn.

The paper is to be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, 12 point type. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s.

VII. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for all classes. Please make every effort to be at class on time.

B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

All work is due at Dr. Gibson’s office on 14 August 2009. Late work will not be accepted.

C. Assistance

Please come to see me with your questions. I have a sign up sheet located outside my office. Office hours during the summer will not be consistent. I can also be contacted via email.
VIII. Course Calendar

*Monday 15 June*

9:00-12:00  Introduction
1:00-3:00   Class meets
7:00-9:00   “Elmer Gantry”

*Tuesday 16 June*

9:00-12:00  Class meets
1:00-3:00   Class meets
7:00-9:00   “Pollyanna”

*Wednesday 17 June*

9:00-12:00  Class meets
1:00-3:00   Class meets
7:00-9:00   “The Apostle”

*Thursday 18 June*

9:00-12:00  Class meets
1:00-3:00   Class meets
7:00-9:00   “Leap of Faith”

*Friday 19 June*

9:00-12:00  Class meets
            Wrap up

IX. Bibliography—Novels


Susan Howatch, Volume 1 (Glittering Images), 2 (Glamorous Powers), 3 (Ultimate Prizes), or 6 (Absolute Truths) of her Church of England Novel Series. Any edition.

Jan Karon, Book 1 (At Home in Mitford), Book 2 (A Light in the Window), Book 3 (These High, Greek Hills), Book 4 (Out of Canaan), etc. of her Mitford novels with Father Tim Cavanaugh. Any edition.

__________. Book 1 (Home to Holly Springs), etc. of the Father Tim series. Any edition.


Anthony Trollope, *Barchester Towers*. First published in the United Kingdom in 1857. This novel is part of the Chronicles of Barsetshire series. Any novel from
the series is a good read: The Warden, Barchester Towers, Doctor Thorne, Framley Parsonage, The Small House at Allington, and The Last Chronicle of Barset.


X. Bibliography—Films

The Apostle (1997)
Because of Winn-Dixie (2005)
Buck and the Preacher (1972)
Contact (1997)
Doubt (2008)
Elmer Gantry (1960)
Gran Torino (2008)
Hotel Rwanda (2004)
Keeping the Faith (2000)
Leap of Faith (1992)
License to Wed (2007)
Night of the Hunter (1955)
Papa Was a Preacher (1985)
Pollyanna (1960)
Preacherman (1971)
The Preacher’s Wife (1996)
There Will Be Blood (2008)
Signs (2002)

XI. Bibliography—Television Shows

The Andy Griffith Show
Everybody Loves Raymond
Father Ted
Lost
Keeping Up Appearances
M*A*S*H
Monty Python
Mr. Bean
Seventh Heaven
The Simpsons
The Vicar of Dibley

XII. Bibliography—About Films/Television


XIII. Bibliography—About Novels/Literature


How many class sessions did you attend? _______________ (check if all)
Report on *At Home in Mitford* _______________ (grade). 5%
Report on *Signs* _______________ (grade). 5%
Report on three movies _______________ (grade). 25%
Report on three novels _______________ (grade). 25%
Class participation _______________ (grade). 10%

(Late work will not be accepted.)

**Course Grade** _______________