I. Course Description

As a result of this course, the student will be able to develop expository sermons that are true to the biblical text, meaningful to their audience and enriched by the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit. This course will explore how the classical spiritual disciplines of biblical meditation, prayer and fasting can be utilized within the homiletical process to develop sermons that make a deep impact upon their hearers. It is presumed that students enrolled in this course have completed courses dealing with exegesis, hermeneutics, systematic theology and the basic course in preaching (PR 601). A previous course in preaching biblical narratives would also be helpful.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

Building upon the foundation of Haddon W. Robinson’s Biblical Preaching, this course will focus on the role of the Holy Spirit within the homiletics process. Students will learn why the Holy Spirit is a critical partner in the process of preaching and how to invite his participation in the development of ‘deep impact’ sermons. To this end, a focus of the class will be upon the homiletical role of the classic spiritual disciplines. Attention will also be given to the interpretation of biblical narrative literature, sermon development, audience analysis, and delivery. Students will have opportunity to preach. Sermons will be recorded and critiqued.

III. Course Objectives

As a result of this course, students will know how to use the classic spiritual disciplines
to partner with the Holy Spirit in the preparation and delivery sermons that are biblical, relevant and deeply impactful. To achieve this objective, students will attend and participate in class sessions, develop skill in imaging truth through metaphor, develop competency in the spiritual disciplines, and preach in class.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:


Recommended:


4. Ryken, Leland, Jim Wilhoit, Tremper Longman, Colin Duriez, Douglas Penney,

V. Course Requirements

1. Attendance at lectures and participation in exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class. Due to the concentrated nature of this course, it is expected that students will be present for all class sessions.

2. If possible, please read the required textbooks by Monday January 5. If you cannot read them all by this date please prioritize A.W. Tozer’s *The Knowledge of the Holy & The Pursuit of God.* Come to class prepared to meaningfully interact with what you have read. Feel free to read *Distracted* more quickly. Notify me in writing that the required reading has been completed: DUE: *Thursday January 22.*

3. After reading *Distracted,* interview at least three preachers you respect (in person or via telephone) and write a five-page paper about the distractions that keep preachers from focusing on their preaching. You will present your paper to the class and then hand it in for grading. DUE: *Thursday January 22.*

4. Write 3 original metaphors that substantially assist your classmates to grasp three different biblical passages. You will present your metaphors to the class and hand in a hard copy for grading. DUE: *Friday January 9.*

5. Preach a ‘Story Shaping’ sermon from narrative literature that incorporates the principles of Deep Preaching covered in class. DUE: *Friday January 9.*

6. A homiletical ‘do over.’ When this week of class is over, I want you to do some additional ‘Closet Work’ on the passage you preached in class. Use the ‘Tools of the Deep Preacher’ we discuss in class to allow the Holy Spirit to take you deeper into its truth and its implications. Resubmit your initial ‘Story Shaping’ sermon together with a ‘revised edition.’ Include a two-page summary of what you changed from your initial sermon and why. DUE: *Thursday January 22.*

VI. Course Grading

1. Attendance, reading and quality class participation. - 30%

2. ‘Distracted’ assignment. - 20%

3. Metaphor assignment. - 10%
4. ‘Story Shaping’ Sermon. – 20%

5. ‘Do over’ sermon manuscript – 20%
VII. Tentative Class Schedule

Monday, January 5

The challenges of Preaching Today
The Reasons for Preaching Today
The role of the Holy Spirit in Preaching

Tuesday, January 6

The Heart of the Deep Preacher
The Tools of the Deep Preacher

Wednesday, January 7

Understanding the stories of Scripture
Preaching the stories of Scripture

Thursday, January 8

The ‘Closet Work’ of the Deep Preacher

Friday, January 9

Student metaphors
Student sermons