WP 701 Worship and Preaching Spring 2011
P.O. Drawer 668, Due West, SC 29639

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Class meets Saturdays at the Due West (Main) Campus from 9am until 5pm
Meeting dates February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7

Course Description from ETS Catalog:
This course, normally taken the senior year, challenges the students to integrate the entirety of their seminary training into the various duties of corporate worship leadership. In addition to further exploring the topics introduced in WP 601 Worship and Preaching I, students again prepare and preach two full sermons to their classmates and also gain hands-on experience in how to administer the sacraments and perform weddings and funerals.
Prerequisite: Students must have completed 45 hours of course work, including WP 601 Worship and Preaching I, before taking this course.
Required for M.Div. students. Three hours.

Course Objectives:
The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. Among the goals of the Seminary are that graduates will be prepared to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today; that graduates will write and speak using theological language that is clear, well-considered, disciplined, and meaningful for those to whom they minister; and that graduates will be prepared to lead people in the worship of God and the celebration of the sacraments.
Course Textbooks

Required:
The required readings for this course come from the following books. All the required readings will be non reserve in the McCain Library. Some may be available as Adobe pdf files. Others will be given as class handouts by the professor. Readings are assigned more extensively from some books than from others. Since it will be expensive to buy all the books required, and taking the course does not require that you buy them, only that you read the assignments. Use your own judgment about what to buy and what to read without buying. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore. Some of these resources have been required readings in prior offerings of this course and you may find students who have already completed the course under a different faculty member who are willing to sell their used books to you.

Donald G. Bloesch, *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, Mission,* Christian Foundations, vol. 6. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
Chapell, Bryan, *Christ-Centered Worship,* Grand Rapids:Baker Academic, 2009
Robert Leslie Holmes, *When Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough: Pursuing Excellence in Christ's Service.* Greenville and Belfast: Ambassador International, 2005.
Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship Reformed According to Scripture.* Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.
_____, *Leading in Prayer.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Erdmans, 1995
William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style.* Fourth edition. New York: Longman Press, 2000.

The "official" worship guide book most appropriate to your denomination, which is usually obtainable from your denomination's book store. For students who come from, or are preparing for ministry in, denominations that do not publish such resources may choose another suitable book of their choosing. One good source that you may want to purchase for later use in your ministry is *The Book of Common Worship* published by Westminster/John Knox Press.

Course requirements and Expectations:

1. Attendance and participation in each class session is expected and very important. Bear in mind that this is a four meeting course. To be absent from even one session is to miss 25% of the classwork and will be hard to make up and will adversely affect the final grade. (See Seminary Policies.)
2. Each student will preach two sermons and give one meditation appropriate to a particular occasion, as assigned by the professor, in class. These presentations will be organized into three cycles so that everyone will have preached once before anyone preaches the second time and everyone will have preached twice before anyone presents a meditation. Class sermons will have to be in the range of eighteen to twenty-two minutes to allow time for class discussion. The meditations will be in the range of seven to ten minutes for the same reason.
3. One of the class sermons, after the preaching date and when revisions in light of class comments have been made, will need to be included in your Professional Assessment Portfolio. It is the student's responsibility alone to deliver a clean, unmarked copy to the Seminary Registrar's office for inclusion in your portfolio.
4. During the course of the semester, as occasion warrants, write and turn in three brief sermon reviews (approximately 500 words). These may deal with sermons from course readings or sermons you encounter in other ways, as long as you learn something from them that will help you in your own preaching. One of these may be a sermon that struck you as particularly poor. What, in your opinion, made these sermons good or bad. What did you learn from them that you will apply (or, in the case of a bad sermon, will not apply) in your own future preaching? Pay particular attention to the sermon's relationship to a biblical text, and to its content and form: what is included, and in what order?
5. Although our class will meet only four times, each week, no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, students will send me by Email, with attachment (limit one attachment per Email, please. Email and attachment should be headed thus: **Student's name – WP701- Assignment due date;** eg, John Doe – WP701 – April 1) a brief reflection on certain assigned readings. These reflections should demonstrate that the assigned material has been read thoroughly and is

understood. All assigned readings and written work. Extra credit may be earned by reading and reporting on additional unassigned work that enhances the student's understanding of the class subject. In no case, however, can unassigned work become a substitute for assigned work. Late work will be penalized at the rate of one half grade point per day after the due date. Thus, if work is submitted one day late, A quality work will automatically be graded A-, A- quality work will be graded B, B quality work will become B-, etc. On the same scale, work that is submitted two days late that is of A quality will be graded B (half a grade point per day). B quality work that is two days late will be graded C, etc. It is hoped that this discipline will condition students to come to grips with the fact that, in the real preacher's world Sunday morning at 11 o'clock is coming, ready or not!

6. Where possible, we will make use of video to maximize learning from the experience of preaching in class.

7. On a form to be provided by the professor, each class member will submit at least one substantial notation with both praise suggestions for improvement of both content and delivery of each other class member's sermon.

8. We will use the standard Erskine Seminary grading scale.

The weighting of course requirements in calculating the final grade is as follows:

Class participation 15%
First sermon (w/supporting materials) 20%
Second sermon (w/supporting materials) 20%
Meditation 10%
Weekly reading reflections 25%
Sermon reviews 10%
Total: 100%

9. This is not a "preaching competition." It is a learning experience that is designed to help sharpen each student's preaching skills and to help us each become more effective pastors. Without a positive learning environment this course, depending as it does on group interaction and mutual trust, will not work. Therefore every member of the class is required to help create an environment in which each of us can become a stronger preacher and worship leader. As is appropriate for an institution that admits students from many traditions and regardless of race, sex, or denomination, we will focus on knowledge and skills and not on the issues that may divide us. The class will be supportive and constructive for every member at all times. Actions or statements that in any way undermine this environment may result in course failure.

Course Schedule:

February 5: Introductions and Orientation to the Course
Reminders about preaching basics
Parts of a Reformed Worship Service
Sermon genres
The Lord's Supper
In preparation, read Bloesch, *The Church,* 160-177; Chapell, *Christ-Centered Worship,* 42-84, 125-155; Holmes, *Good Enough,* 116-131
We will discuss celebrating the Lord's Supper according to understandings of various theologies of the event. Bring a small whole, unsliced loaf of bread to the first class, together with the text of a communion service appropriate to your denomination. Before the first class finishes, we will

each present the Lord's Supper (without actually partaking of the bread or cup) according to our own tradition.

March 5: Funerals
To prepare, read material provided by the professor at the previous class
We will discuss various types of funerals, giving special attention to differing beliefs about death and how to conduct services in a church sanctuary, a funeral home, and graveside setting. In addition, time will be given to ministering to mourning loved ones and assisting them in making key decisions about the disposition of a body and related matters. Special emphasis will be given to ministering in the context of difficult funerals, such as the death of a child, a young person, a death as the result of an accident or catastrophe, the death of an unbeliever, someone unknown to the pastor.

First Class Sermons
Text: _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

April 2: Baptism
To prepare, read Old, *Worship,* pp.7-22; Bloesch, *The Church,* 154-160

We will discuss various theologies and modes of baptism and the significance of each one to persons who practice baptism in that way as well as to others who hold variuant views of baptism. Students from traditions that baptize exclusively by immersion will meet for the first hour in a place to be announced. Those who practice baptism ordinarily by effusion will meet for the first hour in the seminary chapel.

Second Class Sermons
Text: _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

May 7: Weddings
Readings will be provided by the professor.
We will discuss challenges and policies for weddings; planning a wedding, including premarital counseling and consultations with various persons involved in a wedding service including the family members of the bride or groom, photographers, and others.

Class Meditations
Text: _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

Review of the course in preparation for final examination

Seminary Policies:

Drop-Add-and-Course Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Incompletes

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Office Hours

Since I live away from the campus, I do not have office hours in the usual sense. However, I believe it is my duty to shepherd my students and this means, among other things, doing my best to be available to assist them to maximize their learning in my courses. Feel free to contact me if you believe I can help you. The best way to get in touch with me is either by email at rlesholmes@aol.com or by telephone at 706-799-4474. Except in an emergency I prefer email.

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Policy Regarding Absences

Attendance and participation in all class sessions is expected. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) Any student who has to be absent for part or all of any class meeting shall still responsible for all work missed and all work due. Bear in mind that missing one day in this class is equivalent to missing 25% of an entire semester. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course. In some circumstances, because this course is being offered at the Erskine Columbia site a student who misses any class or part thereof may be required, solely at the professor's discretion, to make up that class or section in Columbia.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs" (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.
1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.
2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.
3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.
4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.
In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:
1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.
2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.
3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'
The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:
Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected
Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.