Instructor: Lance Pape

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content:

This course examines the relationship between narrative and preaching. Everybody loves a good story, but what does story have to do with the proclamation of the gospel? The course will provide an introduction to narrative theory, review the way thinking about stories has influenced preaching, and explore the role of excellent fiction in nurturing the preacher’s theological imagination and capacity for semantic innovation. Finally, the narrative theory of Paul Ricoeur will be developed as a resource for fresh thinking about the preacher’s task.

Class Procedures:

The course is structured as plenary lecture/discussions interspersed with student sermon presentations with instructor and peer feedback.

Requirements:

1. Attendance at all classes.
2. Timely completion of all readings, reading response papers, sermon preparations, and other assignments as described in the syllabus. All written work must be completed in order to earn a passing grade.
3. The preaching of two sermons, as assigned.
4. Active and responsible participation in class discussions and the evaluation of student sermons.

Texts:


**Grading Procedures:**  
Sermons: 50%  
Sermon Preparation materials: 20%  
Short reading response papers: 20%  
Class Participation: 10%