Homiletics (HOML)

HOML 510 Advanced Preaching: Rhetoric and Creative Proclamation (3)
This course builds the student's capacity to preach effectively in the context of Anglican worship, refine their voice, and expand their homiletical repertoire. Along with extensive opportunity for practice and critique, the course introduces students to classic and contemporary rhetorical and homiletical theories and models. Particular attention is paid to homiletical form, style, and delivery, and to the various special occasions outside the Sunday Eucharist at which homilies are delivered. This course satisfies the second homiletics course requirement for the Master of Divinity curriculum. *Prerequisite or Corequisite: HOML 530.*

HOML 530 Introduction to Preaching (3)
Fundamentals of Preaching introduces students to the basic theory and practice of homiletics in the Anglican Tradition. The course assists the student in the discovery of her or his preaching voice, and provides the student with significant occasions for exploration of varied expressions of excellent preaching, while also affording multiple opportunities to recite, speak, and preach before fellow students and the professor. Particular attention is given to homiletical exegesis, homiletical form, preaching style, and sermon delivery, with concentration primarily on preaching for the principal Sunday service.

HOML 531 History of Anglican Preaching (3)
The History of Anglican Preaching explores the tradition of preaching in the Church of England, the Episcopal Church, and across the Anglican Communion from the English Reformation to the present day. The course will use basic texts in church history and works on social history and on reception theory, in addition to the sermons of important figures in Anglican history. The student will learn the place and practice of preaching in the Anglican Communion, the changes in the practice of preaching over time, and how those changes reflect and shaped history.

HOML 534 Parables and Preaching (3)
Parables and Preaching explores the parables of Jesus, the rabbis, the desert fathers and mothers, and world literature (Kafka, Borges, Kierkegaard, and others) as texts to be interpreted and texts to be proclaimed. Particular attention is given to preaching the parables of Jesus, and examining the implications of Jesus' parables for preaching in general. Texts include works by Dodd, Scott or Hultgren, Brosend, and Lowry.

HOML 535 History of Modern Preaching (Truth through Personality: The Beecher Lectures and American Preaching) (3)
Beginning with excerpts from the lectures of Henry Ward Beecher and Phillips Brooks, this seminar uses the Beecher Lectures of Yale Divinity School as a basis for examining the history and practice of preaching in the United States, with emphasis on the post-war period, to expose students to the richness and diversity of homiletical theory and equip them to incorporate this wisdom into their practice. The lectures of Fosdick, Craddock, Buechner, Trible, Brueggemann, Proctor, the Buttricks, and Taylor will be read and discussed, and sermons by most of the lecturers reviewed and examined.

HOML 536 Preaching the Old Testament (3)
Preaching the Old Testament focuses on homiletical exegesis of Old Testament texts, and the faithful proclamation of the Word of God from a foundation of texts from the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. The work of Davis, Brueggemann, Harrelson and others will be examined from a theoretical and practical perspective, and students will offer a set of sermons exploring critical themes, characters, and issues from the Old Testament.

HOML 537 Rowan Williams, Preacher and Theologian (3)
This seminar will explore the theological themes, concepts and events in the sermons and occasional writings of Rowan Williams. The course traces a trajectory informed by the liturgical calendar and christology: incarnation, transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection and the empty tomb, ascension, eucharist, ecclesiology and eschatology. Assigned readings will be a mixture of preaching documents (sermon manuscripts and video recordings) and published theological writings: On Christian Theology, Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel, Tokens of Trust, and A Ray of Darkness: Sermons and Reflections.) Careful reading of assigned texts, seminar discussions, leadership of those discussions and written exercises of various lengths will constitute the work of this course.

HOML 538 Preaching Against Violence (3)
The redemption of human violence is at the heart of the Christian belief and practice. This course takes up violence and its transformation through close readings of contemporary homiletic theory and theological discourse. The preparation and delivery of a cycle of sermons on the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) and a theological reflection on those sermons integrates theological reflection with homiletical practice. This course also has the attribute of THEO. *Prerequisite: HOML 530.*

HOML 539 Language for Preaching (3)
The difficulty of speaking about God generates and limits homiletical speech. Readings are drawn from linguistics, theology and literature in order to gain perspective on the habits and limits of language. The creation, presentation and revision of weekly writing assignments cultivate writing cognizant of these challenges and shaped for preaching. Sermons preached for the feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday integrate the difficulty of speaking about God with the practice of preaching.

HOML 540 African American Preaching (3)
This course will examine and reflect upon the historical context, theology, rhetoric, and impact of African American preaching from the antebellum period to the present. Students will: (1) Engage in intensive reading and seminar discussion of African American preachers and homileticians (2) identify an African American preacher whose life and preaching they will study; (3a) write a research paper on that figure; or (3b) preach a sermon (in class) informed by your understanding of African American homiletics and submit a second sermon in writing.

HOML 541 Preaching and Interpretation: Various Topics (3)
This course examines the ways interpretation of an extended portion of scripture informs preaching, while also exploring the unique ways that preparing to preach shapes interpretation. The course will analyze and exegete texts in English and in original languages where there is aptitude. It will also engage in regular homiletic practice and reflection. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: BIBL 501 and BIBL 502 and BIBL 511 and BIBL 512.*

HOML 542 Preaching and Justice (3)
This course explores the reasoning, resources, and best practices for preaching justice. Through exploring contemporary issues, interpreting scriptural texts, analyzing sermons, examining insights of scholars, and practicing preaching, this course seeks to help students develop hermeneutical, homiletical, theological resources for meaningfully engaging justice in the pulpit.

HOML 543 Preaching Women (3)
Following the work of Lenora Tubbs Tisdale, this course explores a variety of issues related to women and preaching, giving students encouragement to discover, explore, and enhance their own unique voices in the pulpit. Topics to be addressed include: the history of women as preachers, the variety of styles and voices in which women proclaim the Word, construal of gender as it relates to the authority of the preacher, Biblical and theological interpretation for the preaching task, and the creative process of sermon preparation.

HOML 544 Memory and Preaching: Engaging Place with Eucharistic Hope (3)
This course develops preaching and leadership resources for addressing aspects of memory in churches and communities. Among other things, it examines the mimetic/anamnetic impact of Confederate monuments, holocaust memorials, parish memorials, and The Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The course explores how place and memory affect what can be said, what needs to be said, and how preaching might serve an important role in interpreting space, advocating for change, and fostering beloved community rooted in holy anamnesis. Class resources will draw on historical study, preaching exemplars, and dialogical approaches to leadership. This course fulfills the preaching elective requirement. *Prerequisite: HOML 530.*

HOML 545 Pastoral Preaching I (3)
This class will focus on the particular challenges of preaching on the Lesser Feasts and Fasts and other occasions often encountered in parish ministry. In addition to lectures and course readings, students will analyze and critique homilies by established preachers as well as prepare and preach homilies in class, as assigned by the instructor.

HOML 546 Pastoral Preaching II (3)
This class will focus on the challenges of preaching at the pastoral rites, particularly but not limited to weddings and funerals. In addition to lectures and course readings, students will analyze and critique homilies by established preachers as well as prepare and preach homilies in class, as assigned by the instructor, in response to unique pastoral and liturgical situations.

HOML 547 Preaching in the Liturgical Tradition (3)
This course explores the distinctive historical, theological, and homiletical features of preaching within a liturgical tradition. Special attention will be paid to key figures and occasions in the history of liturgical preaching, to the development of students' own theology of preaching in the Anglican tradition, and to the contemporary practice of preaching within the Episcopal Church. Students will present sermons in class as a part of their graded work.

HOML 594 Directed Readings (1 to 4)
A Homiletics topic developed by the student and a School of Theology faculty member to meet an educational goal not met through existing courses.

HOML 601 Preaching in the Liturgical Tradition (3)
This course will explore the distinctive historical, theological, and homiletical features of preaching within Anglican and other liturgical traditions. Special attention will be paid to key figures and moments in the history of preaching, to the development of the student's own theology of preaching in her or his own tradition, and to the contemporary practice of preaching within those traditions. Students will present sermons in class as a part of their graded work.

HOML 605 Theology of Preaching for the 21st Century (3)
How is Christian preaching a theological endeavor? This course will focus upon a theology of preaching - how does Christian theology empower, authorize, and sustain Christian proclamation? There will also be consideration of the function of our theologies in preaching. How do our claims about God inform and give substance to our sermons?.

HOML 606 The Old Testament in Christian Preaching (3)
The Old Testament in Christian Preaching focuses on homiletical exegesis of Old Testament texts, and the faithful proclamation of the Word of God from a foundation of texts from the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. The work of Robert Alter, Ellen Davis, Walter Brueggemann, and others will be closely read from a theoretical and practical perspective, and students will watch and critique sermons by master preachers, before preaching in class sermons exploring critical themes, characters, and issues from the Old Testament.

HOML 607 Advanced Liturgical Preaching (3)
Advanced Liturgical Preaching will focus on contemporary preaching in Anglican and other liturgical traditions. Building on the foundation of "Preaching in the Liturgical Tradition" students will: (1) reflect on the place of the sermon in contemporary eucharistic worship; (2) identify a contemporary preacher whose work they will study; (3a) write a research paper on a figure or topic in contemporary liturgical preaching; or (3b) submit a sermon series of at least three sermons that models an effective approach to preaching in the context of the eucharist.

HOML 608 The Spirituality of Preaching (3)
This course will focus on three aspects of the spirituality of preaching. Through lectures, discussions and reflective exercises participants will: Identify and explore their own experience of grace in the exercise of the preaching vocation, considering the question "How is the saving action of God shaping my life through the demands of this calling?" Consider the craft of sermon preparation as an exercise of co-creativity with God, exploring ways to identify images, motifs, metaphors and symbols that are replete with transformative power. Practice will be gained in forms of meditation and reflection that could lead to a deeper engagement of the heart in sermon preparation. Explore the transformative intentionality of their preaching enterprise. Participants will be encouraged to frame preaching in terms of spiritual formation, exploring the kinds of transformations they hope to support and incite in their listeners. How do they want their preaching to contribute to the shaping and reshaping of their congregant's hearts and minds as agents of a God who seeks intimacy and union with them?.

HOML 609 Preaching Feasts: A Theological Approach to Holy Days (3)
The major feasts of the liturgical year offer the preacher extraordinary opportunities to "do theology" from the pulpit. In this course we will discuss major theological themes, from incarnation to eschatology, and develop a homiletical strategy for exploring these themes while preaching on feast days. Students will share leadership for discussion, and preach sermons that apply and demonstrate their own homiletical strategy for preaching feasts.

HOML 610 Jesus, Paul, and Preaching (3)
The homiletical task is to proclaim the good news. That is what Jesus and Paul did. But how did they do so? What was the context in which they did so, and how can we best understand their contexts and proclamation, and apply them to our own contexts? New Testament and Homiletics scholars AJ Levine and Bill Brosend join to explore and share their understandings of how Jesus and Paul proclaimed the good news in their Second Temple contexts, and lead participants in imagining how to proclaim the good news today.

HOML 611 The Art in Preaching: Using Fiction and Poetry in Sermons (3)
The playwright John Shea says, "We turn our pain into narrative so we can bear it; we turn our ecstasy into narrative so we can prolong it. We tell our stories to live." As humans, we make meaning through narrative. When Jesus was asked questions, he told stories. The objectives of this course are to deepen students' ability to analyze fiction and poetry from a theological perspective and to improve their capacity to incorporate stories and images into their sermons.

HOML 612 The Rhetoric of Proclamation (3)
This course is a workshop in sermon preparation and delivery. Each student prepares and presents a minimum of three sermons for class critique and discussion, with particular focus on sermon structure and form, style, and delivery. Attention is given to the development of illustrative material, storytelling, improvisation, and facility with a variety of preaching styles.

HOML 613 Preaching the Old Testament (3)
This course will examine the challenges and opportunities of preaching the Old Testament. We will pay special attention to the ways genre, historical-critical method, theological construals of good news, and liturgical setting(s) impact the proclamation of an Old Testament text—and are, themselves, impacted by power and privilege. Students will engage in seminar discussion of course readings, examine biblical texts, analyze exemplary sermons, and preach their own new sermon from an Old Testament passage.

HOML 614 Preaching Philippians (3)
This course examines the intersections of biblical interpretation and homiletical practice as it relates to the book of Philippians. It engages in a close reading of the text within its historical context, considers the impact of lectio continua on preaching, reflects on ways Philippians might inform preaching from Pauline epistles, and offers opportunities to study and practice preaching from Philippians.

HOML 615 Preaching and the Anti-Racist Gospel (3)
This course aims to empower Doctor of Ministry students with questions and research skills to proclaim the promises of God in the face of the unrelenting evil of racism. The class will explore theodicy—the believability of God's justice and mercy within the reality of human suffering—with one focus in mind: the problem of American racism, including but not limited to the lens of the Black-White binary.

HOML 616 The History of Preaching in the North Atlantic Church (3)
This course will study homiletical thought and practice from Augustine through Phillips Brooks. The class will examine significant homiletical developments and debates, analyze the best preaching practices of exemplary figures, and discern how this history of preaching in the North Atlantic Church can guide and deepen homiletical reflection and preaching practice today.

HOML 621 Preaching With(In) the Global Communion: Learning from International Homiletics (3)
This course will examine how preaching is conceived and practiced in a wide range of global contexts, specifically studying insights of international homileticians.

HOML 622 Preaching & Interpretation: Various Topics (3)
This course examines the ways interpretation of an extended portion of scripture informs preaching, while also exploring the unique ways that preparing to preach shapes interpretation. The course will analyze and exegete texts in English and in original languages where there is aptitude. It will also engage in regular homiletic practice and reflection. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs.

HOML 623 Biblical Preaching Effective Leadership (3)
This course is designed to help preachers connect the power and practice of preaching with the necessary skills to lead people in an organization or church setting. Combining skills in cultural exegesis, sermon development, and leadership studies, this course will provide practical insights to inform how preachers engage in the practice to move communities toward fulfilling their missions.

HOML 624 Finding Your Preaching Style (3)

HOML 625 Word and Method: Homiletical Frameworks in Historical Perspective (3)

HOML 627 Preaching the Pastoral Offices (3)
"Preach the Gospel at all times". But how to do this in the most sensitive or unpropitious circumstances such as the major life events that accompany baptisms, marriages, and funerals? Reviewing the heritage of Christian pastoral preaching, and exploring the social and cultural changes of the last fifty years, this course will allow the sensitive preacher to develop the tools and experience to preach confidently in the most unpromising of occasions.

HOML 628 Preaching Theology with the Patristics (3)
This course explores how students may accessibly preach complex theological concepts from the Christian tradition in the context of liturgical worship, including pastoral offices, the use of the lectionary, and the celebration of major and minor feasts. The course resources different aspects of the Christian tradition year by year and may explore different aspects of theology, ancient or contemporary theologians, and different theological debates.

HOML 632 Preaching from the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A (3)
This course focuses on reading and interpreting the lessons that appear in an upcoming year of the RCL. It emphasizes practicing and comparing various methods of biblical interpretation and also serves as a practical outfitter for ministers seeking to preach and teach Old and New Testament texts in congregational settings. Texts are studied in translation, but students who have already studied some Greek or Hebrew may choose to pursue a personalized parallel assessment and preparation track where they continue to develop their language skills.

HOML 690 Readings in Homiletics (1 or 3)
This course addresses topics related to the field of homiletics and is offered depending on interest. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. Prerequisites: varies by topic.

HOML 694 Directed Readings (1 to 4)
A Homiletics topic developed by the student and a School of Theology faculty member to meet an educational goal not met through existing courses during the academic year. Not available during summer term.