

Preaching With Film Clips and Visual Imagery
Five-Week PSR Online Course
July 27-August 28, 2009
1.5 credits or CEU's available
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Course Description:

Preachers and worship leaders are trained in the art of public speaking using written and spoken words to present their message. This course will help worship leaders learn to “show” their message with art, photography, and film/video clips, as well as how to seamlessly integrate these materials into the structure of their presentation.

Through online resources, online class discussion, and group presentations, participants will learn how to locate scenes in cinema and Internet video-sharing sites and incorporate them into sermons and liturgies; practice how to skillfully match visual imagery of amateur photography, professional artwork, classical religious art, and computer-generated graphics with the verbal content of sermons and liturgical material. Time will be spent constructing evaluative frameworks that faithfully embrace aesthetics, ethics, justice, and multicultural diversity.

Course Format

The subjects will be addressed through five sequential online modules combining web-based instructional material in print, audio and/or video format, with class discussions designed to help participants interact with each other around the course subjects.

Class Outline

Week One

Introduction and overview to online learning, the Moodle platform, and the course. Listing class members' learning goals and expectations. Sharing experiences with visual arts in preaching and worship. Reflecting on the purpose and nature of Christian worship and preaching, and noting preaching challenges in an electronic, digital world. Defining “Liturgical media art.”

Week Two

Preaching, rhetorics, and the arts: understanding preaching and new media in light of the ancient debate between philosophy (Plato) and rhetorics (Aristotle). The challenges and opportunities of adding visual material to worship. Integrating the arts into preaching. Aesthetics and a theology of beauty. Learning to see and hear Gospel in popular film, art,

and music.

Week Three

Learning what's new with screens, projectors, computers, and new media devices. Methods for gaining congregational acceptance of changes in worship. Enlisting, training, and supporting worship teams. Presentation standards and evaluative frameworks.

Week Four

Using the Internet to find preaching resources for study and presentation: film clips, music, and imagery. Understanding copyright laws as they affect worship preparation and presentation. Discussing merits of "home-grown" productions combining photography and video with preaching and worship.

Week Five

"Show and Tell" Week: participants upload and share a sermon/presentation using what's been learned in the course. Discussing and evaluating participants' contributions. Identifying areas for further research and development. Course evaluation.

Contact Time: 20 hours

Pre-Seminar Required Course Texts (Students taking the course for academic credit are expected to read these texts prior to the start of the course).

1. Bausch, Michael G. Silver Screen, Sacred Story: Using Multimedia in Worship. Silver Spring: The Alban Institute, 2002.
2. Bausch, Michael G. "A Sequel To Silver Screen, Sacred Story: Selected Published Articles, 2003-2009." Available from author/instructor at <mgb103@hotmail.com>.
3. Crowley, Eileen. Liturgical Art in A Media Age. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007.

Recommended Reading: (Referred to in class, and for research, not necessary to purchase.)

- Adams, Doug. Eyes To See Wholeness: Visual Arts Informing Biblical and Theological Studies. Prescott: Educational Ministries, 1995.
- Crowley, Eileen. A Moving Word: Media Art in Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006.

- Detweiler, Craig and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Hocks, Mary E., and Michelle R. Kendrick. Eloquent Images: Word and Image in the Age of New Media. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2003.

Weekly Discussions and Final Project

Participants in this class are expected to post substantive contributions to the weekly discussions, offering their own reflections of the topics and study materials, and interacting with posted contributions by instructor and classmates. Those taking the class for academic credit will also develop a final project in consultation with the instructor, and complete the project by a date determined by PSR.

Michael Bausch, D.Min., teaches the use of the arts and multimedia in worship based on many years of parish ministry experience. He has taught online courses since 2001 at undergraduate and graduate levels, including two online courses for the GTU last summer. He currently serves as pastor at Summit Congregational Church UCC in Dubuque, Iowa. The Alban Institute published his *Silver Screen, Sacred Story: Using Multimedia in Worship in 2002*.