The goals of this course are:
1) To help students speak of faith in evocative, compelling and imaginative ways.
2) To expand and deepen students' understanding of theological/Biblical images, words and stories (strengthen exegetical skills).
3) To help each student develop a "treasure chest" of resources that offer a wealth of images, insights, stories and illustrations for use in sermon preparation.
4) To develop a process by which students will learn to integrate text, context and subtext into their "sermon sculpting."
5) To provide opportunities for students to preach, teach and speak in the class setting.

This course is directed toward the M.Div. Program goal of providing students with the ability to develop and express mature personal faith in keeping with the Biblical record and the traditions of the Church, while being open to the unexpected ways in which God is still speaking in the world at large.

Evaluation of student growth toward these goals as will be based on the following:

1) Short weekly assignments focusing on various aspects of the preaching task. (33%)
2) An exegetical paper. (33%)
3) Two sermons that will be preached in class. (33%)

Grading in this class will be based on the standard format of A, B, C, D, F. Passing the course will require timely submission of
all written materials, reading and reflecting on all assigned texts and articles, full participation in class conversations and careful attention to the art of preaching.

Week #1 - Jan 22 - The sermon as sculpture (assemblage)
Personal introductions, survey of the course, "ten thoughts on sermon-sculpting," interactive sculpting experience.

Assignment: Read pp. xi-2 of Moyers
pp. 1-36 in Long
Chapter 1 in Taylor and Brueggemann
Show and tell: Breaking open the word "God"

Week #2 - Jan. 29 - Looking at the pieces of the sculpture
Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
Presentation of Show and Tell
Looking at the pieces in the sculpture spiral: breaking open the text, wrestling with the tradition, searching the personal narrative, hunting for images, listening to the congregational subtext, discerning the cultural context, leaning into the season.
Start looking at the center of the spiral

Assignment: Read pp. 5-16 of Moyers
Chapter 2 in Taylor
Chapter 2 and 5 in Brueggemann
pp. 36-51 in Long
Show and Tell: Breaking open the word "faith"
Week #3 - February 5 - Focusing on the center: exegesis
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Presentation of show and tell
   Focus on chapter 5 of Brueggemann: The rudiments of exegesis
   Hand-out on exegesis; the process

Assignment: Read pp. 17-42 in Moyers
   Chapter 3 in Taylor and Brueggemann
   Chapter 2 in Long
   Do exegetical work on text for Lent 1
   Show and Tell: Breaking open the word "repentance"

Week #4 - February 12 - Focusing on the center: exegesis
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Presentation of show and tell
   Group analysis of exegetical work
   Exegetical work on Genesis 15:12-12, 17-18

Assignment: Read pp. 43-66 in Moyers
   Chapter 4 in Taylor and Long
   Chapter 3 in Long
   Do exegetical work on Isaiah 55:1-9 using both Brueggemann and Long
   Show and Tell: Breaking open the word "cross"
Week #5 - February 19 - Moving out from the center: engaging the text with the rest of the world
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   presentation of show and tell
   Look at exegetical analysis on Isaiah 55:1-9
   Looking at the rest of the sculpture spiral with the text in mind
   Gathering the pieces for the sermon sculpture

Assignment: read pp. 67-95 in Moyers
   Chapter 5 in Taylor
   Chapter 4 in Long
   Exegetical work for Lent 4
   Using the sculpture spiral, prepare to share other possible pieces for the Sermon sculpture
   Show and tell: breaking open the word "redemption"

February 25-March 1 - Reading Week

Week #6 - Mar. 5 - Laying out the pieces of the sermon sculpture
   Conversation about the reading: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Presentation of show and tell
   Analysis of a sermon using the sculpture spiral: Small group analysis and whole group feedback
   Sharing of sculpture pieces for Lent 4 sermon

Assignment: read pp. 96-128 in Moyers
   Chapter 6 in Taylor and Brueggemann
   Chapter 5 in Long
   analysis of sermon using the sermon sculpture: #2
   Show and tell: breaking open the word "salvation"
Week #7 - March 12 - Laying out the pieces, part 2
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Presentation of show and tell
   Guest preacher to talk about the preaching experience

Assignment: Read pp. 129-157 in Moyers
   Chapter 7 in Taylor and Brueggemann
   Chapter 6 in Long
   Write sermon for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter

Week #8 - March 19 - Giving the sermon
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Two students give sermons with follow-up discussion about the pieces, the treasures, the presentations...

Assignment: Read pp. 159-199 in Moyers
   Chapter 8 in Taylor and Brueggemann
   Chapter 7 in Long
   Show and tell: breaking open the word "resurrection"

March 25-29 - Holy Week

Week #9 - April 2 - Giving the sermon
   Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
   Presentation of show and tell
   Two students give sermons with follow-up discussion about the pieces, the treasures, the presentations
Assignment: Read pp. 201-238 in Moyers
    Chapter 9 in Taylor and Brueggemann
    Chapter 8 in Long
    Show and tell: breaking open the word "heaven"
    Prepare a way into the coming Sunday's sermon
    using either a newspaper article, a poem, a
    piece of art or a piece of music.

Week #10 - April 9 - Talking about "the way in," styles of
    presentation, finding your own voice, writer's block, etc...
    Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What
    treasures did you find?
    "The way in..."
    Visit from an artist... a conversation about process

Assignment: Read pp. 239-269 in Moyers
    Chapter 10 in Taylor and Brueggemann
    Chapter 9 in Long
    Work on sermon #2: your choice of any text in the
    Easter season

Week #11 - April 16 - giving the sermon
    Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What
    treasures did you find?
    Two students give sermons with follow-up discussion about the
    pieces, the treasures, the presentation.

Assignment: read pp. 271-334 in Moyers
    Chapter 11 in Taylor and Brueggemann
    Chapter 10 in Long
Week #12 - April 23 - giving the sermon
  Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
  Two students give sermons with follow-up discussion about the pieces, the treasures, the presentation.

Assignment: read pp. 335-374 in Moyers
  Chapter 12 in Taylor
  Show and tell: break open the word "preach"

Week #13 - April 30 - giving the sermon
  Conversation about the readings: What struck you? What treasures did you find?
  Presentation of show and tell
  Two students give sermons with follow-up discussion about the pieces, the treasures, the presentation.

Assignment: Breaking open (again) the word "God"

Week #14 - May 7 - Evaluating the process; exploring the possibilities
  Presentation of show and tell
  Evaluation of the course
  tying up loose ends
  A few last words.....

Required Texts:
