

04CE510 Theological Research and Writing

Course description

I designed this course to take the intimidation out of research and writing for seminary studies. Students will develop competency in developing a topic into a focused argument, library research, paper formatting, avoiding plagiarism, and other critical skills for seminary student success. Class sessions will be highly interactive with a workshop feel. Students will be coached in the production of a high-quality research paper as a key outcome of the course.

Instructor

Jonathan D. Stuckert, Ed.D.

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Required reading

Getzels, Jacob W. "The Problem of the Problem." In Hogarth, Robin M. *Question Framing and Response Consistency*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1982, 37-49. [Made available on Canvas] (13 pgs.)

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016. (148 pgs.)

Pazmiño, Robert W. *Doing Theological Research: An Introductory Guide for Survival in Theological Education*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2009. (94 pgs.)

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. (Selected portions)

Select one

Strunk Jr., William & E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Boston: Longman, 2000. (85 pgs.) [Buy 4th edition, free as a Kindle book] **This will be good for those that need basic instruction on grammar and style.**

OR

Williams, Joseph M. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. Boston: Longman, 2009. (160 pgs.) [Buy used 3rd. Edition. Newer editions are not worth the steep increase in price.] **This book will be best for those with a foundation of suitable grammar and style.**

Assignments (Total 100 pts.)*

Online forum participation 20 pts.

Students will participate in forum discussions on the Canvas course homepage. Full participation at a minimum is a 4 x 4 (four paragraphs of four sentences each) initial posting in answer to forum question and then at least two substantial interactions with peer postings. The required reading will be necessary for satisfactory participation in the discussion forums.

Research paper drafts 15 pts.

Students will post drafts of their research projects with increasing depth, detail, and length as the course progresses. See Canvas course homepage for specifics on the level of detail and due dates for individual drafts. Students will discover a research topic and refine it with the help of his or her peers and with the instructor.

Presentation and peer review 15 pts

Through the course, students will present their ongoing and developing research paper in both online and in person environments. They will learn to receive and to give constructive critique. We will discuss the dates and details for presentations and peer review in the Canvas environment.

Final of research paper 30 pts.

Students will submit a final version of their 2500 word research paper. Due by midnight EST on December 12, 2018.

Annotated bibliography 20 pts.

Students will produce an annotated bibliography of foundational literature for their research. There should be a minimum of 8 sources, all academic. Students will include a page count total for reading for this assignment that should equal at least 300 pages, but preferably more. We will cover the format and approach for this assignment in class. The bibliography will be due by midnight EST on October 23, 2018.

*Syllabus due dates and assignments subject to in progress revision and negotiated changes.

Schedule

This course will meet on Tuesdays from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm beginning on August 28th, 2018 and concluding on November 27th, 2018. In addition to the classroom environment, students will be required to participate in a robust online learning community in Canvas. Activities, forums, resources, and assignments will be posted on the Canvas course homepage and organized by weeks no later than August 1, 2018.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)