

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

RES 531 Theological Research Methods

Jay S. Lee

Spring 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to enable the student to conduct meaningful theological research and to report the findings in a clear written format. Exegetical, survey, historical, and descriptive methods will be examined. The form and structure of critiques, research papers, book reviews, journal articles, research proposals, and theses will be studied. Course assignments allow the student to apply the principles and methods learned, receiving constructive evaluation throughout the process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To guide the student in learning basic methodology in research.
2. To instruct the student in the mechanics and details of writing a formal research paper in good English style and acceptable form.
3. To acquaint the student with the Library of Congress classification system.
4. To acquaint the student with library research materials and services.
5. To introduce the student to computerized subject searching and other technological advances influencing research methodology.
6. To provide the student with a basic bibliography in the areas of biblical studies and theology.
7. To acquaint the student with biblical, theological, and research terminology.
8. To provide guidelines for the writing of critiques, abstracts, book reviews, journal articles, research papers and theses.
9. To guide the student in the preparation of a research proposal, bibliography, outline, and research paper.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*, rev. & updated ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.

Kepple, Robert J., and John R. Muether. *Reference Works for Theological Research: An Annotated Selective Bibliographic Guide*, 3d ed. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1991.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Revised by John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Strunk, William, Jr. *The Elements of Style*. With revisions, an introduction, and a chapter on writing by E. B. White. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999.

Recommended:

Frisch, Rose E., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
- II. Research process
 - A. Nature and methodology
 - B. Getting acquainted with the library
 - C. Getting acquainted with bibliographies, indexes, abstracts
 - D. Building a working bibliography
- III. Writing process
 - A. Mechanics and style of writing
 - B. Writing research papers
 - C. Writing critiques, abstracts, and reviews
- IV. Suggestions for building a personal library

METHODOLOGY:

1. Lectures
2. Library lab sessions
3. Class discussion
4. Reading assignments
5. Research exercises

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend and participate in library and classroom activities.
2. Complete two examinations.
3. Turn in reading assignments and research exercises as assigned in the classroom.
4. Turn in a partial research paper and 40 annotated bibliographic cards on Apr. 1. The topic for this paper must be approved by the professor no later than Thurs. Jan. 22. Further details will be given in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be present at all class sessions. Absences exceeding three class sessions may result in the lowering of the final grade.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

The final grade will be based on the following:

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|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Attendance and participation | 5% |
| 2. 2 exams | 20% each |
| 3. Research paper | 30% |
| 4. Other assignments | 25% |

Note: Late papers may result in deduction of one letter grade.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Barber, Cyril J. *The Minister's Library and Supplements*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976-

_____. *The Minister's Library*. Vol. 2, 1971-1985. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.

Barber, Cyril J., and Robert M. Krauss, Jr. *Introduction to Theological Research : A Guide for college and Seminary Students*, 2d ed., rev. and expanded. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2000.

Barker, Kenneth L., and Bruce K. Waltke. *Bibliography for Old Testament Exegesis and Exposition*, 3d ed. Edited by Roy B. Zuck. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1975.

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Barzun, Jacques, and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*, 6th ed.

New York: Wadsworth, 2003.

Behling, John H. *Guidelines for Preparing the Research Proposal*.
Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1979.

Burns, Robert B. *Introduction to Research Methods*, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA:
SAGE Publications, 2000.

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2d. ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.

Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher*. Philadelphia:
The Westminster Press, 1977.

Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Minneapolis:
Augsburg Fortress, 2003.

Davis, John Jefferson. *Theology Primer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House,
1981.

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and
Pastors*, 3d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*.
Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

France, R. T., ed. *A Bibliographical Guide to New Testament Research*,
3d ed. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1983.

Gates, Jean Key. *Guide to the Use of Libraries and Information Sources*.
New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1983.

Kennedy, James R., Jr. *Library Research Guide to Religion and Theology:
Illustrated Search, Strategy and Sources*, 2d ed., rev. Ann Arbor, MI:
Pierian Press, 1984.

Kiehl, Erich H. *Building Your Biblical Studies Library: A Survey of Current
Resources*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1988.

Martin, Ralph P. *New Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher*, rev. ed. Louisville:
Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

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Mertens, Donna M. *Research Methods in Education and Psychology: Integrating
Diversity with Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA:

SAGE Publications, 1997.

Rubenstein, Richard L., and John A. Bollier. *The Literature of Theology: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Sayre, John L. *A Manual of Forms for Research Papers and D. Min. Field Project Reports*, 4th ed. Enid, OK: Seminary Press, 1989.

Soulen, Richard N., and R. Kendall Soulen. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, 3d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*, 3d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Tuckman, Bruce W. *Conducting Educational Research*, 5th ed. New York: Wadsworth Press, 1999.

Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

Vyhmeister, Nancy J. *Quality Research Papers: For Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Wiersma, William. *Research Methods in Education: An Introduction*, 7th ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2000.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classical Guide to Writing Nonfiction*, 25th ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

SPECIFIC DATA:

Prepared by Jay Lee, November 2003