

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THED 646 Theological Studies Seminar

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Spring 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the capstone academic experience for the degree of Master of Arts in Theological Studies, this course is designed to teach, guide, and assist the student in preparing a major seminar paper. The required research, interpretation, and writing provide the opportunity for demonstration of competencies within chosen concentrations of study.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course, each student should be able:

1. To engage independently in research and writing in their area of theological studies.
2. To reflect critically on the available scholarship in a particular area of study, assessing strengths and weaknesses, and identify operating presuppositions in both theological and hermeneutical method.
3. To participate constructively in critical analysis of peer research and writing.
4. To serve the church more effectively through theological research and written reflection.

TEXTBOOK

Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. 6th edition. Revised John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1996. (All papers are to follow the documentation method described in chapters 8 and 9, employing footnotes).

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and participation in all class sessions is required of each student. In that the number of class sessions is limited, the student should not be absent from the meetings of the class.
2. The consistent meeting of established due dates in the preparation and presentation of the paper is expected of each student. Those dates are included in this syllabus.
3. Each student will prepare and successfully complete a seminar paper in a chosen area of study

based on the examination and interpretation of primary and secondary sources. The paper must be 30-35 double-spaced pages in length, exclusive of bibliography and appendices. The due date for the paper is included in this syllabus.

4. Each student will provide a copy of the paper, both as it is being written (about one-third of the total paper each week, March 31 to April 14) and in its complete form (April 21, 2005). The provision of copies of the paper for every student will allow for the entire class to profit from working through each other's work. The expense of copying will be borne by the student.

5. Each student will participate in the evaluation of the drafts of the papers of his/her peers as a literary critic (to consider the conformity to the Turabian manual, grammatical and compositional concerns, etc.) and as a content critic (to consider the presentation of the material, the logic of the arguments, the usage of resource material, the cogency of presentation, etc.).

COURSE METHODOLOGY

There will be a limited number of lectures and dialogue relative to the research and writing of seminar papers presented in the taped material to be made available to the students on or about February 1, 2005. The student will do individual research and writing the paper and there will be classroom critique and review of papers. The professor will be available by appointment for private consultations with the the students during the process.

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT	ASSIGNMENTS
Pre-Session ○ Topic Selection ○ Proposal for the paper ○ Bibliographic development ○ Turabian issues	On or about February 1, 2005 the student will be notified of the availability of a taped lesson that will explain the pre-session expectations. The lesson will available both on a CD and on the AGTS website. The student should view the presentation and prepare for the first class session. The "Topic Selection Form" and information about the Proposal are attached to this syllabus.
March 24, 2005 ○ Topic Selection Form ○ Proposal Form	The student will submit at the beginning of the class the "Topic Selection Form" and the "Proposal for the Paper." During the class time these forms will be considered.
March 31, 2005 ○ The first third of the paper	The student will submit at the beginning of the class approximately one-third of the paper, with enough copies for everyone in the class. During the class time the submitted work will be considered.
April 7, 2005 ○ The second third of the paper	The student will submit at the beginning of the class the second third of the paper, with enough copies for everyone in the class. During the class time the submitted work will be considered.

<p style="text-align: center;">April 14, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The last third of the paper 	<p>The student will submit at the beginning of the class the last third of the paper, with enough copies for everyone in the class. During the class time the submitted work will be considered.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April 21, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The entire paper 	<p>The student will submit at the beginning of the class the completed paper for the course, with enough copies for everyone in the class. During the class time the submitted work will be considered.</p>

COURSE GRADING

The grade for the course will be the grade assigned for the seminar paper. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: (1) Failure to meet the due dates for submission of assigned work in the course will reduce the grade for the course by one movement within a letter grade for each calendar day late. (2) Failure to submit the final draft of the seminar paper on the due date will reduce the grade for the course by one letter grade.

The grade of I (Incomplete) will be granted only for extenuating circumstance upon the written request of the student. Except in the case of severe extenuating circumstances the granting of the grade of I will mean that the course grade, assigned when the work is completed, will be reduced by one letter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James H. Railey, Jr., October 2005..

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