

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MATS Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

THED 646 THEOLOGICAL STUDIES SEMINAR
November 16, 21, 30, December 7, 14, 2006

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the capstone academic experience for the degree of Master of Arts in Theological Studies, this course is designed to 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

Upon the successful completion of this course, each student should have demonstrated through class dialogue and the completion of an acceptable seminar-quality research paper the ability:

1. To engage independently in research and writing in a selected area of theological studies.
2. To demonstrate appropriate levels of competence in the selected area of research.
3. To reflect critically on the available scholarship in a selected area of study, assessing strengths and weaknesses, and identifying operating presuppositions in both theological and hermeneutical method.
4. To participate constructively in critical analysis and evaluation of peer research and writing.
5. To receive and fairly evaluate judgments of peers with regard to personal research and writing.
6. To write at requisite skill levels with regard to vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, grammar, composition, style, and so forth.
7. To utilize effectively the basic style manuals requisite to academic writing.
8. To serve the church more effectively through theological research and written reflection.

TEXTBOOKS

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.

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.
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 the outline below.
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, with footnotes, exclusive of bibliography and appendices. The due date for the paper is included in the class outline.
4. Each student will provide a copy of the paper for every student in the class, both as it is being written (about one-third of the total paper each week) and in its complete form on the final week. 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 be expected to participate in the evaluation of the drafts of the papers of his/her peers in class on literary aspects (to consider the conformity to the Turabian manual, grammatical and compositional concerns, etc.) and on content (to consider the presentation of the material, the logic of the arguments, the usage of resource material, the cogency of presentation, etc.).

COURSE METHODOLOGY

This course will employ guidance from the professor in a peer learning context where each student is responsible for both personal research and writing, presentations, peer critique, and mutual affirmation and correction.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

UNIT	ASSIGNMENTS
Unit 0 – Pre-session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic selection • Proposal for the paper • Bibliographic development • Turabian review 	At the beginning of the semester, secure Orientation CD from the Continuing Education Office or download from the AGTS website. View the presentation and prepare for the first class session. The “Topic Selection Form” and information about the “Proposal” are attached to this syllabus.
Unit 1 – Nov. 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic selection form • Proposal form 	Submit “Topic Selection Form” and “Proposal for the Paper” for consideration during the class period. During the class time these forms will be considered.
Unit 2 – Nov. 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First third of the paper 	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.
Unit 3 – Nov. 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second third of the paper 	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.
Unit 4 – Dec. 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last third of the paper 	Submit at the beginning fo 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.
Unit 5 – Dec. 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire paper 	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.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Edgar R. Lee utilizing BTH Department models, June 2006.