

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

THED 646 THEOLOGICAL STUDIES SEMINAR
July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 14, 2007
Thursday evening 6:00—10:00 p.m.
(3 Credits)

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Summer 2007

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*. 7th 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” may 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. 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 – July 19 <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 – July 26 <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 – August 2 <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 – August 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last third of the paper 	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.
Unit 5 – August 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

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

Alexander, Patrick H. et al., eds. *The SBL handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999.

Badke, William B. *A Survivor’s Guide to Library Research*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.

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- Barzun, Jacques, and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*, 6th ed. New York: Wadsworth, 2003.
- Bauer, David R. *An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry*. Peabody MA: Hendrickson, 2003.
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- Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 3d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
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- Mauch, James E. and Jack W. Birch. *Guide to The Successful Thesis and Dissertation: A Handbook for Students and Faculty*. 4th Edition. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1998.

- 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.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Edgar R. Lee utilizing BTH Department models, March 2007.

TOPIC SELECTION FORM FOR MATS SEMINAR PAPER

Name _____

AGTS Mailbox _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

Proposed Topic _____

Brief Explanation of Topic:

Degree pursued _____ Concentration _____

Courses completed in program:

Courses registered for now, or needed yet, in program:

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Definition - The research proposal is the formal statement of what the research project is intended to accomplish, prove, defend, etc. It analyzes the intended project in terms of methodological approach, required and available resource, tentative outline of the project, and intended results. It is expected that the proposal will be 5 - 7 pages in length, exclusive of the bibliography.

Included in Proposal

1. **Topic** - not only its statement, but an explanation of the topic in terms of its relevance, importance, value, difficulty, etc.
2. **Thesis** - what is being asserted, proven, disproved, etc.
3. **Rationale for study** - why bother? What will this study add to the general knowledge of humankind? Will it serve the Kingdom of God? Etc.
4. **Limitations on the study** - what areas will not be covered? Why? Will the focus of the project inherently leave out areas that should, under different circumstances, be covered?
5. **Methodological approach of the project** - will this be purely research and analysis? Will application be included? Will exclusively primary sources be used?
6. **Tentative outline of the project** - this should be seen as tentative, but it is important that at the beginning you have some idea of the areas which will be covered in the project.
7. **Timeline** - a schedule of proposed time commitment to the completion of the project. Obviously for this course you will be working within the constraints of the Syllabus, but in other assignments you may not be so confined.
8. **Resource availability** - survey the library and other avenues of resources to make sure that you will have enough material to accomplish your goals. Don't forget the other libraries in town to which you have access.
9. **Preliminary bibliography** - this would be a listing of the materials you have found which will be useful in the project. This bibliography may grow, or shrink, in the process of your work, but it gives you a starting point.