

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RES 512: ACADEMIC WRITING (1 Credit)
Fall 2010
Dr. Annette Newberry

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to assist the student to write on a graduate level in a clear, correct, and coherent manner in Turabian or MLA format with appropriate academic references (APA format for Counseling Students). Time will be divided between classroom instruction and one-to-one coaching. (Course is required for those on academic probation due to grades or recommendation by Admissions Committee.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the primary Turabian and MLA format styles and prepare a paper (including bibliography) in correct Turabian format (APA for Counseling Students).
2. Articulate five steps for improving one's writing.
3. Show acquaintance with key writing improvement resources.
4. Evaluate personal improvement in writing skills.

COURSE FORMAT

This course includes editorial critique of writing samples, classroom instruction, one-on-one in-class coaching of student by professor and writing coach, and up to 20 hours free coaching outside of class.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 4th ed. New York: Macmillan, 1999. ISBN: 020530902.

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780226823379.

American Psychological Association (counseling students only). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 0-923568962.

Recommended:

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

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way Through the Information Fog*. Writers Club Press (self publisher, iUniverse-Indigo from iuniverse.com), 2004.

Barber, Cyril J. *An Introduction to Theological Research: A Guide for College and Seminary Students*. 2nd Rev. Exp. ed. Landham, MD: University Press of America, 2000.

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Cheney, Theodore A. Rees. *Getting the Words Right: 39 Ways to Improve Your Writing*, 2nd ed. Cincinnati: F & W Publications, 2005.
- Glynn, John. *Commentary and Reference Survey: A Comprehensive Guide to Biblical and Theological Resources*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2007.
- Kepple, Robert J., and John J. Muether. *Reference Works for Theological Research*, 3rd ed. Landham, MD: University Press of America, 1992.
- Society of Biblical Literature. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999.
- Shertzer, Margaret. *The Elements of Grammar*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Longman, 1996.
- Thymeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008.
- Wilbers, Ken. *Keys to Great Writing*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books, 2000.
- Yaghjian, Lucretia B. *Writing Theology Well: A Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers*. New York: Continuum Press, 2008.
- Zinssler, William. *On Writing Well*, 4th ed. New York: Harper Collins, 1990.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance at each class session is required (September 8; September 29; October 27; and November 17).
2. Interaction with coaches - Student must allow sufficient editing and discussion time if he or she wishes a coach's input on a paper before that paper is due. The writing coach will not be expected to fix all of the problems in a paper in the time provided; nor will the writing coach be expected to "rewrite" a paper. The coach will seek to improve the work as much as possible, but additional editing may be necessary. The student should understand that improving writing ability and grades requires time. However, if students apply themselves diligently to writing and receiving coaching, they should find gradual improvement. No one can learn to write well in a short time. Nor is a writing coach responsible for the quality of work submitted and the grades received. The coach can only do his or her best in the time provided.
3. A 5-page. paper (main text plus title page, outline, and sources) on a given research topic will be due December 1.

GRADING AND CREDIT

Professor will evaluate the progress of student and provide a grade of "S" (Satisfactory), "M" (Marginal), or "U" (Unsatisfactory). Grade will not be based on the hours of time spent with the coach, but on the quality of the final writing product.

This course does not count toward the fulfilling of the student's degree program, however, it will be listed on the student's transcript under the heading, "Additional Courses Taken."

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Dr. Annette Newberry, August 2010. (anewberry@agts.edu)