

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BNT/BOT/MHT/PCS 646 Theological Studies Seminar

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Spring 2010
Fridays, 8:00-10:45

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 demonstrate appropriate levels of competence in the selected area of research.
3. 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.
4. To write at requisite skill levels with regard to vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, grammar, composition, style, and so forth.
5. To utilize effectively the basic style manuals requisite to academic writing.
6. To participate constructively in critical analysis of peer research and writing.
7. To receive and fairly evaluate judgments of peers with regard to personal research and writing.
8. To serve the church more effectively through theological research and written reflection.

TEXTBOOK

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007. (All papers are to follow the “notes-bibliography” method of documentation described in chapters 16 and 17, employing footnotes). ISBN: 9780226823379

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and participation in all class sessions is required of each student. In that the number of class sessions will be abbreviated to allow maximum time for the preparation of the major paper for the course, the student should not be absent from the meetings of the class. Those meetings are announced below.
2. The consistent meeting of established due dates in the preparation and presentation of the paper is expected of each student.
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 (if any).
4. Each student will provide an electronic copy of the first draft of his/her seminar paper for the professor and every student in the class. These are due **4 days before the class session at which his/her paper is to be reviewed by the class.**
5. Each student will participate in the evaluation of the first draft 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.). The assignment of these responsibilities will be made during the first or second class.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

There will be a limited number of lectures, dialogue relative to the research and writing of seminar papers, individual research and writing, private consultations with the professor, and classroom critique and review of papers.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 8 and 15

Class meetings at which the following items will be covered: Explanation of the syllabus and course expectations; topic selection; research methodology; and writing principles with consideration of sections from the Turabian manual.

January 15

Each student will submit at the beginning of the class the topic for the seminar paper. The individual topics will be discussed in class on that day. The professor will respond to each student, giving the okay to begin further work on the paper. The assignment of due dates for the first drafts and for literary and content critiques will be made. **There will be a chapel service this morning, 9:30-10:45 a.m.**

February 19

Each will receive critique of the first 1/3 of their paper by the assigned students. During these sessions questions will be asked and suggestions given by peers and the professor.

This is not a formal defense of the paper by the author; rather, it is a dialogue about the work with the intent to improve the final product.

March 12 Critique of 2nd third of the paper.

March 26 Critique of final third of the paper.

April 12 - Final draft of the paper due Monday at 1:00 p.m. to the professor.

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 the presentation of the topic, the proposal, and the first draft will reduce the grade for the course by one movement within a letter grade for each calendar day late. (2) Failure to be prepared on the assigned day to participate in the class as literary critic and/or content critic will reduce the grade for the course by two movements within a letter grade. (3) 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.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, October 2009.