

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

RES 531 Theological Research Methods

Jay S. Lee

Fall 2001

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to enable the student to conduct meaningful theological research and to report the findings in a clear written format. Exegetical, survey, historical, and descriptive methods will be examined. The form and structure of critiques, research papers, book reviews, journal articles, research proposals, and theses will be studied. Course assignments allow the student to apply the principles and methods learned, receiving constructive evaluation throughout the process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To guide the student in learning basic methodology in research.
2. To instruct the student in the mechanics and details of writing a formal research paper in good English style and acceptable form.
3. To acquaint the student with the Library of Congress classification system.
4. To acquaint the student with library research materials and services.
5. To introduce the student to computerized subject searching and other technological advances influencing research methodology.
6. To provide the student with a basic bibliography in the areas of biblical studies and theology.
7. To acquaint the student with biblical, theological, and research terminology.
8. To provide guidelines for the writing of critiques, abstracts, book reviews, journal articles, research papers and theses.
9. To guide the student in the preparation of a research proposal, bibliography, outline, and research paper.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

Kepple, Robert J., and John R. Muether *Reference Works for Theological Research: An Annotated Selective Bibliographic Guide*, 3d ed. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1991.

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Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Revised by John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Strunk, William, Jr. *The Elements of Style*. With revisions, an introduction, and a chapter on writing by E. B. White. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999.

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

Recommended:

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1993.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*, 2d ed., rev., enl. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1984.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
- II. Research process
 - A. Nature and methodology
 - B. Getting acquainted with the library
 - C. Getting acquainted with bibliographies, indexes, abstracts
 - D. Building a working bibliography
- III. Writing process
 - A. Mechanics and style of writing
 - B. Writing research papers
 - C. Writing critiques, abstracts, and reviews
- IV. Suggestions for building a personal library

METHODOLOGY:

1. Lectures
2. Library lab sessions
3. Class discussion
4. Reading assignments
5. Research exercises

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend and participate in library and classroom activities.
2. Complete two examinations.
3. Complete “Treasure hunt” assignment.
4. Complete research exercises as assigned, keeping cards in correct bibliographic form on all sources researched or reviewed with annotations about the level of usefulness. The intent of the assignments is to build the research for the paper and to develop methodological discipline.
5. Turn in a book review and an article critique.
6. Turn in a partial research paper and bibliographic cards on Tuesday, Nov. 27. The topic for this paper must be approved by the professor no later than Tuesday, Sept. 11. Further details will be given in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be present at all class sessions. Absences exceeding three class sessions may result in the lowering of the final grade.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

The final grade will be based on the following:

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|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Attendance and participation | 5% |
| 2. 2 exams | 20% each |
| 3. Treasure Hunt | 20% |
| 4. Research paper | 25% |
| 5. Other assignments | 10% |

Note: Late papers may result in deduction of one letter grade.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*, 3d ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.

Aldrich, Ella V., and Thomas Edward Camp. *Using Theological Books and Libraries*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1963.

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Baker, Sheridan. *The Practical Stylist*, 3d ed. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1973.

Barber, Cyril J. *The Minister's Library and Supplements*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.

_____. *The Minister's Library*. Vol. 2, 1971-1985. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.

_____. *Introduction to Theological Research*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.

Barker, Kenneth L., and Bruce K. Waltke. *Bibliography for Old Testament Exegesis and Exposition*, 3d ed. Edited by Roy B. Zuck. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1975.

Barzun, Jacques, and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*, Rev. ed. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1970.

Behling, John H. *Guidelines for Preparing the Research Proposal*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1979.

Bollier, John A. *The Literature of Theology: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1979.

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.

Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1977.

Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Davis, John Jefferson. *Theology Primer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

France, R. T., ed. *A Bibliographical Guide to New Testament Research*, 3d ed. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1983.

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Gates, Jean Key. *Guide to the Use of Libraries and Information Sources*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1983.

Good, Carter V., and Douglas E. Scates. *Methods of Research: Educational, Psychological, Sociological*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1954.

Hillway, Tyrus. *Introduction to Research*, 2d ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1964.

Kennedy, James R., Jr. *Library Research Guide to Religion and Theology: Illustrated Search, Strategy and Sources*, 2d ed., Rev. Ann Arbor, MI: Pierian Press, 1984.

Kiehl, Erich H. *Building Your Biblical Studies Library: A Survey of Current Resources*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1988.

Marrow, Stanley B. *Basic Tools of Biblical Exegesis: A Student's Manual*. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1976.

Martin, Ralph P. *New Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1984.

Sayre, John L. *A Manual of Forms for Research Papers and D. Min. Field*

Project Reports, 4th ed. Enid, OK: Seminary Press, 1989.

Scholer, David M. *A Basic Bibliographic Guide for New Testament Exegesis*,
2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1973.

Soulen, Richard N. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, Rev. ed. Atlanta: John Knox
Press, 1981.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*,
2d ed. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1984.

Tuckman, Bruce W. *Conducting Educational Research*, 2d ed. New York:
Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1978.

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Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical
Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

Williams, Joseph M. *Style*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: An Informal Guide to Writing Nonfiction*,
2d ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1980.

SPECIFIC DATA:

Prepared by Jay Lee, August 2001.