

Course Description

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Course Number: IN 300W

Course Title: Research Seminar

Name of Instructor: Susan Ebertz

Semester and Year: Fall 2021

Requirement fulfilled: required for MA-DM students, highly recommended for MDiv students writing theses. MA students should take IN300 MA Research Seminar in the spring semester

Who may register: anyone interested in writing a major research paper

Indicate if limited: no

Number of hours: 1 credit hour

Grading option: credit/no-credit only

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course utilizes a seminar format and will help students working on a Major Research Project, Thesis, or any major research paper to hone topics, explore resources, develop research skills, and form a writing community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this seminar are:

1. To assist in the development of research topics and research questions in a collaborative seminar environment (Practice of Collegiality);
2. To explore the gathering of bibliographic sources and other research materials through print and electronic media (Practice of Curiosity);
3. To examine the use of sources (Practice of Complex Analysis); and
4. To review proper methods of documentation (Practice of Complex Analysis).

PROCEDURE:

Assignments will be geared toward helping students work toward laying the foundations for the writing of their major research projects or theses.

EVALUATION:

Assessment will be based on completion of readings and class assignments together with a final paper of a focused research topic, a set of questions, a preliminary bibliography, and a working outline for the proposed projects or theses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: All books available as eBooks through library catalog.

Required:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Edited by Wayne C Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Highly recommended for MDiv thesis students:

Booth, Wayne C, Gregory G Colomb, Joseph M Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T FitzGerald. *The Craft of Research*. 4th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Recommended:

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies : Finding Your Way through the Information Fog*. Seventh ed. Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2021.

Collins, Billie Jean, Buller, Bob, Kutsko, John F, and Society of Biblical Literature. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*. Atlanta, Georgia: SBL Press, 2014.

Eco, Umberto Mongiat Farina, and translator. Farina, Geoff,. *How to Write a Thesis*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2015.

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *"They Say / I Say": The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. Third ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014. (new edition coming out very soon)

Roach, Jonathan, Theodore Whapham, and Gricel Dominguez. *Expressing Theology: A Guide to Writing Theology That Readers Want to Read*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2015.