

## Course Description

**Course Number: IN 300W**

**Course Title: Research Seminar**

**Name of Instructor: Ericka Raber**

**Semester and Year: Fall 2023**

**Requirement fulfilled:** highly recommended for MDiv students writing theses

**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 seminar course will help students develop skills and practices for completing a major research project or thesis. Readings, discussions, and activities will foster development of research and writing skills. Students will explore and examine resources, discover research tools, develop search strategies, and reflect on the concept of scholarship as conversation.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this seminar are:

1. To develop research topics and research questions in a collaborative seminar environment (Practice of Collegiality);
2. To explore the gathering and organizing of bibliographic sources and research materials (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, discussions, and activities will help students develop knowledge, skills, and practices needed for the writing of their major research projects or theses.

### **EVALUATION:**

Assessment will be based on completion of readings, discussions, and class assignments together with a final bibliography and working outline for proposed projects or theses.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY: Books are available as ebooks through library catalog.**

#### **Required:**

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th edition. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. Chicago; The University of Chicago Press, 2018.  
<https://wartburgseminary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1111646236>

**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. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.dtl.idm.oclc.org/lib/dtl/detail.action?docID=4785166>

**Suggested:**

Barreto, Eric D. *Reading Theologically*. Foundations for Learning. Lanham: Fortress Press, 2014. <http://site.ebrary.com/id/10886971>.

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. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.dtl.idm.oclc.org/lib/dtl/detail.action?docID=3118346>

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. 5th ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2021.

Roach, Jonathan, Theodore Whapham, and Grisel Dominguez. *Expressing Theology: A Guide to Writing Theology That Readers Want to Read*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2015. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.dtl.idm.oclc.org/lib/dtl/detail.action?docID=4534428>

**See Also:**

[Quick Guide for Turabian 9, Notes-Bibliography Style](#)  
[Student Supplement for The SBL Handbook of Style, Second Edition](#)