

Course Description

Course Number: IN 300W

Course Title: Research Seminar

Name of Instructor: Ericka Raber

Semester and Year: Fall 2026

Requirement fulfilled: required for MDiv students with approved thesis topics

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. Guest speakers.

EVALUATION:

Assessment will be based on completion of readings, discussions, and class assignments together with a writing sample for proposed project or thesis.

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>