

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35243
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Fall 2019
September 3-December 8
Demopolis Campus
PT5527 Intro to Theological Studies (Communications)

Professor: Major W. Burrell
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Credit hours: 2

Course Purpose

The essentials of effective oral and written communication skills for the church and the Christian worker's overall task will be emphasized. The students will be engaged in numerous writing projects throughout the semester. Effective oral and written communication skills will also include working within the congregation and expand to the broader community.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to do in-depth research.
2. The student will be able to systematically gather and utilize content to inform results of theoretical research in theological papers and theses.
3. The student will be able to revise and edit papers and theses to generate papers that are effective and error free.
4. The student will be able to accurately cite information and appropriate sources while applying the Turabian Style to papers and theses.

Course Texts

Required texts (Only ** texts required for certificate students)

Logos Bible Study Software (**Students must purchase for this course. See the Seminary website: http://birminghamseminary.org//logos_bible-studies-software**)

Strunk, William, Jr., and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan, 1979.

**Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

**Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers, for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Yaghjian, Lucretia B. *Writing Theology Well, A Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers*. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc., 2006.

Recommended texts: (Can be located on-line)

- An unabridged dictionary. [Webster's or Oxford]
- A thesaurus.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class attendance and participation -5%. Class attendance and participation: in the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Logos Quizzes-5%. Randomly given based on material provided in reading assignments.
3. Completion of all assigned readings – 10%. Completion of reading assignments on time and ability to participate in class discussions.
4. Completion of weekly research and writing assignments – 30%. Two to three page papers. (These papers are short and should be concise and precise. These assignments focuses on both content and written communication which is a necessity in today's ministry.)
5. The mid-term will be a paper of at least six pages but no more than ten pages, exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, table of contents, and title page, chosen from an approved list to be distributed. – 20% (*Master's students will include properly formatted footnotes and paper must consist of the maximum ten pages. In addition, some footnotes referencing Logos resources must be included and mandatory for all students in the Masters' program*).
6. The final exam will be a paper of at least ten pages but no more than fifteen pages, exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, table of contents, and title page, chosen from an approved list to be distributed. – 30% (*Master's students will include properly formatted footnotes and paper must consist of the maximum fifteen pages. In addition, some footnotes referencing Logos resources must be included and mandatory for all students in the Masters' program*).

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

The final exam (paper) of ten to fifteen pages should incorporate, on average, at least two footnotes per page and a bibliography of 10-12 references and the required extracurricular research to support such a paper.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

Course Outline (Subject to Revision)

- 09/03– Introduction, The Research Process Read Yaghjian chpts. 1, 5
“ Vyhmeister chpts. 1-5
Note: Turabian and Strunk will be used throughout the course as references
- 09/10 – Discuss Paper Topics, Reading and Taking Notes Read Yaghjian chpt. 3
Weekly Project/Quiz (research exercise) due (Use Logos) Vyhmeister chpts. 7-8
- 09/17 – Bibliographies and Footnotes Read Yaghjian chpts. 2-4 Vyhmeister chpts 6, 9-10
Topic. **Weekly Project/Quiz** (Reflection Essay – “Why is this course important to your personal and professional development?)
- 09/24 – **Weekly Project/ Quiz (footnotes and bibliography) due (Use Logos)**
Synthesis, Analysis, Outlines Read Yaghjian chpts. 6-7 Vyhmeister chpts. 11-13
- 10/01– Organizing and Formatting the Paper Read Yaghjian chpts. 8-12
- 10/08- **Mid-Term Paper Due (Use Logos)**
Biblical Exegesis as Research Read Vyhmeister chpts. 14
The Lesson Presentation
- 10/15- No Class, Fall Break
- 10/22 – Reviews, Proposals, Projects Read Vyhmeister chpts. 15-18
Weekly project (Biblical Exegesis) presentation (Use Logos)
- 10/29 – Review of Mid-term Papers
Critical papers

11/05 – Speaking and Listening

Weekly project

(Reflection Essay/PPT: “Why I want to study and teach the Bible?” due)

11/12 -PPT Presentation on “Why I want to study and teach the Bible” (Peer Review)

11/19 – Speaking and Listening (**Book critique of Strunk & White: KWL/Roundtable Discussions**)

11/26-Thanksgiving Break

12/3-Speaking and Listening **Final Exam Paper Due (Use Logos)**

Further Reading

Adler, Mortimer J. *How to Speak How to Listen*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1997.

Badke, William B. *The Survivor’s Guide to Library Research: A Simple, Systematic Approach to Using the Library and Writing Research Papers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Graves, Richard L., ed. *Rhetoric and Composition: A Sourcebook for Teachers*. Rochelle Park, NJ: Hayden Book Company, 1976.

Hudson, Bob and Shelley Townsend. *A Christian Writer’s Manual of Style*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Isaac, Stephen, and William Michael. *Handbook in Research and Evaluation*. San Diego: EDITS, 1971.

Laque, Carol and Phyllis Sherwood. *A Laboratory Approach to Writing*. Urbana, Illinois: NCTE, 1977.

Langan, John. *College Writing Skills*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2005.

Lederer, Richard, and Richard Dowis. *The Write Way: The S.P.E.L.L. Guide to Real-life Writing*. New York: Pocket Books, 1995.

Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*. 9th ed. New York: Longman, 1999.

Lindsell, Sherry L. *Proofreading and Editing for Word Processors*. New York: Arco Publishing Company, 1985.

Murray, Donald A. *A Writer Teaches Writing*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968.

Price, Jonathan. *Put That In Writing*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.

Rico, Gabriele. *Writing the Natural Way*. Los Angeles: J. P. Tarcher, Inc., 1983.

Sabin, William A. *The Gregg Reference Manual*. New York: Gregg Division/McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1977.

Williams, Joseph M. *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1990.