

**BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DOTHAN CAMPUS
4390 WESTGATE PARKWAY
DOTHAN, AL 36303
334-794-9464**

Fall 2019

PT 5527 Introduction to Theological Studies

Professor: Dr. W. Charles Lewis

Class Hours: 2

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Course Purpose

The basic principles of effective communication for the church and the Christian worker's overall task will be considered with special emphasis on written communication skills. The students will be involved in several writing projects during the course of the semester. Oral communication within the congregation and the broader community will be covered as well.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to do careful research.
2. The student will be able to organize, connect, and state the results of that research in theological papers and theses.
3. The student will be able to revise and edit papers and theses to produce papers that are effective and error free.
4. The student will be able to properly cite information and sources and apply the Turabian style to papers and theses.

Course Texts

Required texts

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2016.

Logos Bible Software - Libronix Digital Library System (See www.birminghamseminary.org).

Smith, Kevin Gary. *Writing and Research: A Guide for Theological Students*. Carlisle, UK: Langham Global Library, 2016

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

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

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (Masters/Certificate)

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

Recommended texts:

- Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren. How to Read a Book; The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading. Rev. ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1972
- An unabridged dictionary. [Webster's or Oxford]
- A thesaurus.

Course Grading

1. Class Attendance and Participation – 5%
2. Completion of all assigned reading – 10%
3. Completion of weekly research and writing assignments – 35%
4. The mid-term will be a paper of at least six pages (four for certificate students) but no more than eight pages, exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, table of contents, and title page, chosen from an approved list to be distributed. – 20%
5. The final will be a paper of at least ten pages (7 for certificate students) but no more than fifteen pages, exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, table of contents, and title page, chosen from an approved list to be distributed. You should have a minimum of five (5) **scholarly** references **other than your required texts**. One (1) reference may come from either a commentary or the internet; all non-internet references must come from the Logos Bible Software. (Masters students). **Wikipedia is not a scholarly resource.** – 20%
6. Oral Presentation – 10%
- 7.

Course Formats & Style Standards

All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Therefore, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

Course Outline

- 9/5 - Introduction, Initial Writing Assignment
- 9/12 - The Research Process - Read Vyhmeister chpts.1-5 Yaghjian chpts.1, 5 Strunk pp.1-30
- 9/19 - Organizing the Paper - Read Vyhmeister chpts. 11-12 Yaghjian chpt. 3 Strunk pp. 31-54
- 9/26 - Formatting the Paper - Read Vyhmeister chpts. 13 Yaghjian chpts. 2-4 Strunk pp. 55-62
- 10/3 - Preparing Bibliographies - Read Vyhmeister chpts. 6-8 Yaghjian chpts. 6-7 Strunk pp. 63-96 Midterm Paper Due
- 10/10 - Footnotes - Read Vyhmeister chpt. 9 Yaghjian chpts. 8-12 Strunk pp. 97-115
- 10/17 - **FALL BREAK**
- 10/24 - Reference Notes and Bibliographic Entries - Read Vyhmeister chpt. 10 Strunk pp. 116-120
- 10/31 - Biblical Exegesis as Research - Read Vyhmeister chpt. 14
- 11/7 - Descriptive Research - Read Vyhmeister chpts. 15-18
- 11/14 - Thesis and Dissertations - Read Vyhmeister chpts. 20-21 Final Paper Due
- 11/21 - **Oral Communication**
Turabian Reading Report Due
- 11/28 - **THANKSGIVING**
- 12/5 - Oral Communication
ORAL PRESENTATION

Bibliography

- 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.
- 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: 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