

Introduction to Theological Research

Fall 2009

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Required Texts:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, et al. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 2007.

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Persuasive Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2007.

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers: For Students of Theology and Religion* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Recommended Texts:

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way through the Information Fog*. 2nd ed. New York: iUniverse, 2004

Strunk, William and E.B. White. *Elements of Style*, 4th ed. New York: Longman, 1999.

Course Objectives:

1. The student should demonstrate familiarity with basic research tools and methods.
2. The student should demonstrate critical evaluation and effective writing skills necessary to pursue graduate Theological Studies.
3. The student should be equipped with the skills to encourage and enable lifelong learning.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is required at class sessions

Students will complete and submit worksheets throughout the semester

An outline as well as a rough draft for a research paper (due in another course) is required

Schedule:

9/11: Introduction to the Course/Introduction to the study of theology Introduction to the study of theology/aims of research and writing (Graff: Pref., Intro.; Vyhmeister: chap 1)

- 9/18:** Aims of research and writing (Turabian: chap 1)
- 9/25:** Resources for Theological Studies (Print & Digital Vyhmeister: pp. 15-18)
- 10/2:** Early research steps (Vyhmeister: chaps. 3 & 6; Graff: chap. 1; library orientation)
- 10/9:** Early writing steps/Formatting the paper (Handout; Graff: chap. 2; Vyhmeister: chap. 4)
- 10/16:** Finding/Evaluating resources (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary; Turabian pp. 24-30 Vyhmeister: chap. 7)
- 10/23:** Reading/Research & Note taking (Vyhmeister chap. 8; Turabian chap 3)
- 10/30:** Engaging Sources (Turabian chap. 4; Graff chaps. 3-4)
- 11/6:** Evaluating and Producing arguments (Turabian chap. 5)
- 11/13:** Grammar/Academic writing; planning/producing rough draft (Vyhmeister chap. 12; Turabian chaps. 6-7; Graff chaps. 5-7)
- 11/20:** Notes/Citations/Plagiarism (Book review: Vyhmeister: pp. 154-159; Turabian pp. 77-81)
- 12/4:** Final steps