

Syllabus for
THE 499—Senior Paper
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2011

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A designed research/writing project for seniors studying under the personal guidance of a professor involving specialized research in the area of theological/historical studies.
Prerequisite: THE 217.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Participate in in-depth research in a self-designated area of theological interest.
- B. Gain the ability to organize and interpret material in the major area of his undergraduate study.
- C. Demonstrate the will and tenacity to see a major research project through to completion.
- D. Learn to consummate a complete and thorough research of materials relating to a selected theme.
- E. Develop mastery in stating and solving problems.
- F. Develop a clear, concise, and scholarly writing style.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Consult extensively with his assigned faculty advisor in all stages of the thesis work.
- B. State the thesis or purpose of the paper. This will include the following:
 - 1. A clear and concise statement of the problem being researched.
 - 2. A delineation of the scope of the work.
 - 3. A working hypothesis.
 - 4. A statement concerning the research methodology employed.
- C. Prepare a comprehensive bibliography.
- D. Analyze and evaluate the data collected
- E. Report the results of the research in proper research and writing style.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Alexander, P. Kutsko, J. Ernest, J. Lucke, S. Peterson. *SBL Handbook of Style*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2000. ISBN: 1-56563-487-X

Lamp, Jeffrey S. *Guidelines for Paper Formatting*, ORU Copy Center, 2006.

Lamp, Jeffrey S. *Writing Tools and Helps*, ORU Copy Center, 2001.

2. Other None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

None

2. Other None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5)

calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**

- d. All exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Attendance

- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures
Each student is assigned a faculty advisor to work with him individually on the thesis. This supervising professor will be the primary reader and grader of the completed thesis. This professor will make helpful comments and suggestions to help the student prepare a strong, academically acceptable paper. The student will meet often with his faculty advisor.
- 2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
Submit the Senior paper in its final approved form for assessment on line. Make sure that the primary reader also receives two printed, bound copies as well. Also submit in a separate document the Resume assignment. Non compliance will result in a grade reduction of 11%.
- 3. Other Procedures
 - a. Final typed copy due—all senior papers are to be typed on 20-pound, 20 percent rag content paper and bound in an approved velum binder. The typeface is to be better quality. If a student is not sure if a typeface is appropriate, the student should see the instructor. Final copy due date announced first class period.
 - b. Note: The final bibliography should contain at least 40 books and 20 periodicals.

- c. Instructions regarding deadline from the primary reader take precedence over the course calendar.
- d. The paper must be typed for submission. The following calendar may be adjusted by the primary reader. Consult with the reader regarding the calendar. The reader may require other installments. The reading professors read for content since they are specialists in the field; they are **not** proofreaders or editors. That is the responsibility of the student writer. Excessive errors and disregard for the conventions of the style sheet will result in the paper being returned to the student for correction before any more reading continues. The professor is also teaching courses and doing his/her own research; this requires a well-written and proofread paper be presented conforming to the schedule of the reader.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Students in class meet once a week for assistance with paper and keeping up with appropriate schedule of approximately five pages every two weeks. Students in summer session meet only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

- Week 1: Declaration of topic and preferred readers. Discussion of format and style sheet.
- Week 2: Confirmation of readers. Submit to assigned reader:
 Thesis statement
 Outline of paper
 Tentative bibliography
 Appointment made with primary and secondary readers for advisement and bibliographic suggestions.
- Week 3: Confirm in writing to Dr. Thorpe appointments kept with readers.
- Week 4: Present primary reader revised bibliography and extensive notes.
- Week 6: Present primary reader first twenty pages of paper.
- Week 9: Present to primary reader and secondary readers, if defending for honors, copies of completed paper. Failure to meet this deadline will result in failure of the course.
- Week 11: Make required revisions and provide three bound copies of the paper.
- Weeks 13-15: Honors defenses scheduled. Submit completed Resume.

This schedule may be adjusted to conform to the primary reader's schedule. Make sure that you consult with the primary reader and submit to the professor of record a signed scheduled adjustment from the primary reader.

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

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This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	x			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			x	
1C	Evangelistic capability			x	
1D	Ethical behavior			x	

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	x			
2B	Information literacy	x			
2C	Global & historical perspectives			x	
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			x	
2E	Intellectual creativity	x			

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				x
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				x

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	x			
4B	Interpersonal skills			x	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			x	
4D	Responsible citizenship			x	
4E	Leadership capacity			x	