

Syllabus
COM 499—Research and Senior Paper/Project
2-3 Credit Hours
Spring 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Specialized research culminating in a senior paper and/or other approved project.
Prerequisites: COM 498, senior standing, and consent of department chair.

II. COURSE GOALS

The general purpose of the course is to provide a base for pursuit of a worthy research paper compatible with the student's major academic emphasis. Special consideration is given to projected graduate study or post-graduate experience.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Draw conclusions concerning the research and effectively communicate those findings to the reader.
2. Defend orally the research and paper to a panel of faculty members if desiring to graduate with honors.

B. Objectives for Students in Teacher Preparation Programs

The Teacher Preparation Program meets the competency-based requirements established by the Oklahoma commission on teacher Preparation. This course meets the following competencies: Subject Competencies (SC) 3, 7, and 9.

This course is designed to help students meet subject competencies:

SC 3: Applies appropriate learning strategies for critical thinking, research, organization, and presentation of messages appropriate to participation in a democratic society.

SC 7: Establishes a communication climate which encourages reflection, creativity, and critical thinking.

SC 9: Uses technology (i.e., videotaping of presentations, computers to generate visual aids and as a research tool) to enhance instruction.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials

Textbooks

APA. (2010). Publication manual of the American psychological association.
Washington: American Psychological Association. ISBN 9781433805615

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 Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA 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

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are

handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.

2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event.
 - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
 - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
 - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts, and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication, Arts, and Media WPA handbook for policies at (<http://oru.edu>), click on **Academics**, then **WPA**, then **Department Resources**, then **CAM Handbook HTML**.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading and approval of the final paper or project is done by the student's departmental advisor and by two other faculty members of the student's choice.
 - b. The professor, in grading, will both assess the overall quality of the finished work and also consider the student's success in establishing realistic work goals and maintaining deadlines for meeting them.
 - c. With the following exceptions, all papers should be completed and submitted early in November. Exceptions include foreseeable delays taken into consideration in the prospectus and serious illness.
 - d. Incomplete grades for any reason require the approval of both the advisor and the department chairman and are granted only for good reasons. In any case, all papers must be completed and finally approved no later than the first Friday in December. Otherwise, approval to graduate may be withheld. Students wishing to graduate with honors should, after the paper is completed, request an oral defense before the departmental faculty.

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: students are responsible for including these portfolio items.
 - a. Senior Paper
 - b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 Every senior, to be eligible to graduate, is required to complete an original research paper. Final approval of the finished product rests with the section instructor; however, in every case a second professor will examine the product and confer with the professor on a grade.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	Course Introduction
Week 2	Overview of chapter requirements
Week 3	Writing Literature Reviews
Week 12	Rough draft of chapters 1 & 2 due to advisor
Week 13	Rough draft of chapters 3 & 4 due to advisor
Week 14	Final draft due to advisor
Weeks 15 – 16	Senior Paper Defenses for students graduating with honors

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

COM 499—Research and Senior Paper/Project Spring 2012

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
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	