

Syllabus for
GTHE 517—Seminar in Theological Research
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed to permit the theological research student to acquire a degree of expertise in the use of the library's many facilities. Emphasizes a working knowledge of research tools and research methodology. Discusses selective problems in theological research and addresses the scholarly process and modern information systems. Focuses on writing skills and the textual tradition embodied in book form. The course also examines the basic form, content, and style of an acceptable research paper.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study the fundamentals of research methodology.
- B. Become acquainted with the basic resource tools and materials for theological research.
- C. Examine modern information systems, including the "book"—its history, value, physical make-up, and the means for evaluation.
- D. Learn to appreciate the continuing value and relevance of traditional formats, such as printed books, journals, and authoritative references.
- E. Understand the importance and methodology of evaluating information resources.
- F. Observe how skillful written expression is connected with the technique of research.
- G. Examine the style and form of an acceptably written research paper.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. Discuss the application of reading principles to analysis and synthesis.
- B. Demonstrate a mastery of theological research tools and methodology by completing a major research project.
- C. Demonstrate mastery of class lectures and reading material by completing an annotated bibliography, a critical book review, exegetical exercise, and the final exam.
- D. Exhibit ability to use basic research materials by completing required research and library exercises.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310517825

Research and Writing Manual. Tulsa, OK: Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM), rev. 2013.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Rev. by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Columb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780226816388 **Digital Version is available**

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean and Terry Dwain Bobertson. *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310514022

2. Other None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way through the Information Fog*. 4th ed. New York: I Universe, 2011. ISBN: 9781462010172

Bauer, David R. *An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry*. 2nd ed. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011. ISBN: 9781610973861

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 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 ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **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 academic committee by written petition that student's 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 are 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 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 academic committee of the School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).

- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:

- a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
- b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Grading:

Annotated Bibliography of reference articles, journal articles, and books	10%
Critical Book Review	10%
Exegetical Exercise	10%
Group Participation	20%
Research Paper	40%
Final exam	10%
- b. Grading scale:
 - A=90-100%
 - B=80-89%
 - C=70-79%
 - D=60-69%
 - F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
 - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
 - b. WPM requirements for this course:
None
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. **Annotated bibliography of reference articles, journal articles, and books:** three of each in accordance with instructions handed out in class.
 - b. **Critical book review:** 2-3 pages in accordance with pages 67-69 of Vyhmeister and instructions handed out in class.
 - c. **Exegetical exercise:** in accordance with chapter 2 of Vyhmeister and instructions handed out in class.
 - d. **Research paper:** 10 to 12 typewritten, double-spaced pages; Times New Roman 12 font; in accordance with format in the *Research and Writing Manual*.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Day	Topic	Assignment
1	Course Introduction Library Introduction	Reading: Vyhmeister, chapters 1, 12, 14-15 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages Fee & Stuart, chapters 1-4 Bring three potential research topics to next class
2	Authoritative Summaries, Narrow Topic,	Reading: Vyhmeister, chapter 11 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages Fee & Stuart, chapters 5-7 Bring one topic to next class.
3	Thesis Statement Databases in the Library	Reading: Vyhmeister, pp. 162-7, 194-5, chap. 22 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages Fee & Stuart, chapters 8-10 Bring Thesis Statement to next class.
4	Working and Annotated Bibliographies	Reading: Vyhmeister, chapters 16, 19, 22 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages Fee & Stuart, chapters 11-13 Bring Annotated Bibliography to next class.
5	How to Take Notes Intellectual Integrity, Bibliographies, Footnotes	Annotated Bibliography of Reference Articles, Journal Articles, and Books Due Reading: Vyhmeister, chap. 3, pp. 66-71 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages
6	How to Write a Book Critique/Review Types of Theological Writing Peer Editing	Reading: Vyhmeister, chapter 2

7	The Biblical Exegetical Process Introduction to Exegetical Tools	Book Critique/Review Due Reading: Vyhmeister, chapter 13 <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , pertinent pages
8	Paper Proposal Format Outlines	Review ENG 101 for next class. Bring Exegetical Exercise to next class.
9	English 101 Review	Exegetical Exercise Due Reading: Vyhmeister, chapters 17-18, 21. <i>Research & Writing Manual</i> , Review pertinent pages Read/take notes for Research Paper. Bring Outline to next class.
10	Elements of a Good Research Paper Writing a Rough Draft	Organize Research Paper per outline Bring Rough Draft to next class.
11	The Rewriting Process	Bring Rewrite to next class
12	The Final Draft	Bring Final Draft to next class
13	Lifelong Learning, Course Wrap-up, and Final Review	Final Draft of Research Paper Due Evaluate Group Participation
14	Final Exam/Student Opinion Survey	

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

GSTM distinctives for all degree programs

**FED 501 Teaching Methodology, Dr. Cheryl Iverson
GTHE 510, Holy Spirit Empowerment in Life and Ministry, Dr. Tim Ekblad
GTHE 517 Seminar in Theological Research, Dr. David Hebert**

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These courses contribute to 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.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
The Holy Spirit/Signs and Wonders				
Articulate a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit			X	
Experience personally the work of the Holy Spirit to discover and develop unique spiritual gifts, for integration and ministry			X	
Ministry, Professional/Personal Development/Teaching Methodology				
Articulate clearly ministry/professional calling			X	
Minister to spiritual and academic needs of others in a professional context			X	
Theological Research				
Demonstrate a mastery of theological research tools and methodology	X			