ORU

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

LTHE 217 — Seminar in Theological Research

3 Credit hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed to give students a working knowledge of the materials and methods used in theological research. Emphasizes philosophical analysis, theological bibliography, critical methods of reading and studying, research methodology, and thesis writing.

Prerequisites: None

II. ACADEMIC MISSION

Oral Roberts University's academic mission is to transform students by the power of the Holy Spirit into whole, competent servant-leaders through liberal arts and professional education that is fully Christian. Within a Spirit-filled healing community, administration, faculty, and staff love and serve students by helping them grow in knowledge, skills, wisdom, character, and spirit. Student transformation is measured through the evaluation of student expression of University learning outcomes as demonstrated through the following outcomes.

1 Spiritual Integrity
2 Personal Resilience
3 Intellectual Pursuit
4 Global Engagement
5 Bold Vision

The last page of this syllabus, "COURSE INVENTORY for ORU's Course Objectives," indicates how this course supports ORU's academic mission and ORU's whole-person approach to learning outcomes.

III. Program Outcomes

This course supports the program outcomes of the Bachelor of Art degree in Historical and Philosophical Theology. An ORU Historical and Philosophical Theology graduate must acquire a skill set that enables him or her to successfully perform integrative tasks, including the following Program Outcomes this course supports, marked below in **the bold text**, and with an asterisk (*).

1. **Students will master the use critical thinking skills in the context of the disciplines of historical and philosophical theology.***
2. **Students will develop a capacity for assessing appropriate information for reliability, bias, and relevance. ***

3. **Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines. ***
4. Students will produce a capstone research project that displays mastery of a topic in historical and philosophical theology.

IV. COURSE GOALS

A. Examine the fundamentals of research methodology.
B. Become acquainted with the basic resource tools and materials for doing theological research.
C. Examine theoretical approaches to theological method.
D. Study the basic categories, vocabulary and themes of Christian theological study.
E. Examine how skillful written expression is connected with the technique of research.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, I should be able to:

A. Use reading principles in analysis and synthesis.
B. Demonstrate mastery of theological research tools and methodology by completing a major project.
C. Exhibit ability to use basic research materials by completing required research exercises, library exercises, and writing exercises.
D. Demonstrate the ability to write a thoughtful and critical book review.

VI. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Before you purchase your required textbook(s), click on the ORU Bookstore link to verify whether digital texts are provided as part of your Follett ACCESS course fee.

http://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/home

Required Materials
  Textbook:
    Lewis, C. S. *The Great Divorce*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2001. [Print ISBN: 9780060652951; eText ISBN: 9780061947353]

    Vhymeister, Nancy. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 4th ed. 2020. [Print ISBN: 9780310106661; eText ISBN: 9780310106685]

  Other required materials:
    None
Optional Materials
  Textbooks:
    Lamp, Jeffrey. *ORU College of Theology Form and Style Manual.* Tulsa: Oral Roberts University College of Theology and Ministry. *(Available in D2L course.)*

    Strunk, William and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Longman, 1999. [Print ISBN: 9780205313426]
  Other:
    None

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. **University Policies and Procedures**
   1. **Plagiarism:** The ORU Catalog explicitly addresses the issue of plagiarism. Make sure you know ORU's policy on plagiarism and what is considered plagiarism.
   2. **Privacy:** By law, students are entitled to privacy regarding their records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended and available in the ORU University Catalog, sets forth requirements designed to protect the privacy of student education records. The law governs access to records maintained by educational institutions and the release of information from those records.
   3. **Whole Person Assessment Requirements:**
      a. Specify which, if any, Whole Person Assessment requirements there are for this course.
         The Research Paper will serve as the Whole Person Assessment (WPA) requirement for this course. Noncompliance results in the grade of zero for the assignment. An electronic copy will be submitted electronically for assessment.
         Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.

B. **School and/or Department Policies and Procedures**
   1. **Participation:** Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, and all other course activities count as your attendance in the course. Lack of participation can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
   2. **Class Assignments**
      a. Students need to have the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
      b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
   3. **Late Work**
      a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and materials, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. The professor may not accept late work, or it may result in a lower grade. Computer or Internet malfunctions do not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it completed, edited, and proofread prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
      b. Generally, assignments missed from a serious sickness or family crises can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work.
   4. **Incompletes**
      On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the time grades are given. It is given only after the instructor and the department chair or college dean approve a petition submitted by the student that his or her work is incomplete for good cause. Good cause typically consists of a catastrophic event in which the student is prevented from completing the course requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition through http://petitions.oru.edu, make up any incomplete work, and ask the instructor to submit a grade change to the registrar. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent session, the incomplete will automatically convert to an "F." For graduating seniors, the degree will be awarded in the term that the student completes his or her course work, not the final term of enrollment.
   5. **Citations**

Textbook(s) and materials for the course are listed using standard citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, etc.). Since other styles may be used in disciplines other than the one used in this course or school, the ORU Citing and Documenting Sources pages offer a collection of styles students may choose from. This course asks that students be consistent in whatever style they use throughout the course.

C. **Online Programs Policies and Procedures**
1. **Communicating with your Instructor:** All email communication between students and faculty will be through their ORU.edu emails.
2. **Learning Community:** Online learning community is established through active participation in the threaded weekly discussions. The mutual exchange of ideas, information, and experiences is an essential part of the learning process, and students are encouraged to use the discussion forum as virtual classroom platform.
3. **ADA and Students with Disabilities:**
   - Click here (http://www.brightspace.com/about/accessibility/) to view Desire2Learn's "Accessibility Resources for Students with Disabilities."
   - Students requiring Disability Services from ORU, please click here: https://goo.gl/QG0K4x
   - Desire2Learn (D2L) Accessibility Guidelines and Checklist: https://goo.gl/Ck4RwY
   - D2L Accessibility Policy: https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/
4. **Useful Links for Online Students:**
   - Student Learning Glossary
   - Library: http://library.oru.edu.
   - D2L Helpdesk: d2lhelp@oru.edu
   - I.T. Student Helpdesk: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
   - Netiquette and Online Discussions: https://goo.gl/f744AY
   - Contact the University: please fill out this online form. Please first contact your instructor for assistance with any matter specific to the course.

D. **Course Policies and Procedures**
1. **Evaluation Procedures:** The final grade will be based on forum discussions, projects, and a final exam. The weight of each item is included in the Course Calendar. Extra credit items are not offered in this course

Grade Weight	Category
10%	Paraphrasing exercise
10%	Word Study Notes and Working Bibliography
20%	Word Study Paper
10%	Theological Issue Notes and Bibliography
20%	Theological Paper
10%	Biblical Issue Notes and Bibliography
20%	Biblical Issue Paper
100%	TOTAL

2. **Grading Scale:**
   A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below.

3. **Other Policies and/or Procedures**
   None

VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

The Course Calendar shows the specific learning activities and assessments for this course. Further descriptions for activities and assessments are in their respective weeks in D2L. When applicable, ¥ Indicates this is a Whole Person Assessment item. † indicates this is a faith integration item tracked by the program.

Week 1	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 1: Paraphrasing Exercise
Week 2	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 2: Word Study Notes and Working Bibliography
Week 3	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 3: Word Study Paper
Week 4	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 4: Theological Issue Notes & Working Bibliography
Week 5	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 5: Theological Issue Paper
Week 6	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 6: Biblical Issues Notes and Working Bibliography
Week 7	
	Read/View/Listen
	Project 7: Biblical Issue Paper

IX. COURSE INVENTORY

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This inventory indicates the extent to which this Course's Objectives contribute to the Outcomes of its degree Program, and ultimately to one or more of ORU's University Outcomes (in grey 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.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
1. Spiritual Integrity			
Program Outcome 3: Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines		X	
• Course objective B: Demonstrate mastery of theological research tools and methodology by completing a major project		X	
• Course objective C: Exhibit ability to use basic research materials by completing required research exercises, library exercises, and writing exercises		X	
2. Personal Resilience			
3. Intellectual Pursuit			
Program Outcome 1: Students will master the use of critical thinking skills in the context of the disciplines of historical and philosophical theology		X	
• Course Objective A: Use reading principles in analysis and synthesis.		X	
Program Outcome 2: Students will develop a capacity for assessing appropriate information for reliability, bias, and relevance.		X	
• Course Objective C: Exhibit ability to use basic research materials by completing required research exercises, library exercises, and writing exercises.		X	
Program Outcome 3: Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines.		X	
• Course Objective B: Demonstrate mastery of theological research tools and methodology by completing a major project		X	
4. Global Engagement			
5. Bold Vision			