

Fall 2017 - SHORT SYLLABUS

Department: Research & Writing

Course Title: Theo. Research & Writing Skills

Course Number: RW 701

Credit Hours: 3

Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:45 pm, plus one Friday of the semester, 9 am – 4:30 pm

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PRE-REQUISITE – Please see the 2016-17 Academic Catalog (pages 46-48) for pre-requisite information, or speak with Susanah.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From Trinity’s 2016-17 Academic Catalog (pg. 71):

“A weekly seminar offered in the spring semester preparing students to write their thesis (RW799) the following year. Students will learn research methods and skills and develop their writing ability. They will produce a thesis proposal, including a developed statement of the topic, an outline of the contents, a full bibliography for future research, and a written research agreement with a thesis supervisor.”

This course is an introduction to theological research methods and writing skills. Students will learn in a part lecture and part seminar format, and with both hands-on practicum and theoretical overview.

Before the first class:

Students should have begun research and reading in their thesis interest area, with a general goal of reading about 500 pages in the general topic area. Students should also come to class with a working preliminary thesis statement in mind.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say I Say: the Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2014. ISBN: 9780393935844. \$26.75

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014. ISBN 9780310514022. \$19.99

Yagoda, Ben. *How to Not Write Bad: the Most Common Writing Problems and the Best Ways to Avoid Them*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2013. ISBN 9781594488481. \$15.00

COURSE EVALUATION

Grading is determined on a pass/fail basis. Pass is awarded for turning in all completed assignments and attendance for the in-class sessions. No credit will be given unless all assignments are completed adequately.

There will be weekly reading and writing assignments, including three book reviews. In addition, students are expected to complete significant reading in their chosen subject area. The final project for the class is a completed thesis proposal including thesis statement, project overview, working outline, bibliography and thesis proposal form.

Full syllabus will be available on or before the first day of class.