

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** Research Methods Seminar

**TERM:** Fall 2025-2026

**NOTE:** This course is required for the MTS degree program.

**PROFESSOR:** Dan Frayer-Griggs

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED X  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the sources, methods, and bibliographical tools important for academic research and writing in a theological context. Students will gain familiarity with on-campus resources such as the Barbour Library and Center for Writing and Learning Support. Designed to be completed in the first year of one's program, this course will develop skills in critical analysis as students begin engaging scholarship relevant to completing a research project.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. to develop library research skills and to understand the nature of critical inquiry
2. to be able to locate relevant sources by using appropriate reference tools
3. to learn to acknowledge sources accurately with proper citation methods
4. to improve one's capacity to produce effective arguments
5. to complete an annotated bibliography on the topic of choice as well as a substantial essay/chapter/article on that topic at an advanced graduate level.

**PREREQUISITES:**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

- Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, 6th edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2021, ISBN: 978-1324070030, \$33.13.
- Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2016, ISBN: 978-0830851317, \$16.99.
- Additional readings and resources will be posted to the course portal (Canvas).

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

1. Weekly participation assignments (10%)
2. Book review (20%)
3. Annotated Bibliography (30%)
4. Final essay (40%)

**ATTENDANCE:** Required