

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.

**TITLE:** Research Methods Seminar

**TERM:** Fall 2020-2021

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

**PROFESSOR:** Daniel Frayer-Griggs

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: 10  
# AUDITORS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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:

This course will guide students through the process of developing a research question, evaluating sources and methods, conducting theological research, articulating a clear thesis statement, and presenting their research according to the conventions of academic theological writing.

### PREREQUISITES:

No formal course prerequisites. However, students should be active in the MTS program or have faculty approval, given the focus on helping students develop a specific research project.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1469028613 \$27.99 new (paperback)

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-0226430577 \$18.00 new (paperback)

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean and Terry Dwain Robertson, *Quality Research Papers: For Students of Religion and Theology*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-0310106661 \$26.25 new (paperback)

### ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- 1.) Book review
- 2.) Annotated bibliography
- 3.) Final research essay

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.