

Wycliffe College
WYJ1711
Research and Writing

(Online)

Summer 2017

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Course Description

The literature of biblical studies, theology, church history, and pastoral studies is introduced along with the research and writing process; locating, evaluating, and using information; genres of theological writing; citation and bibliographic formats; and ethical aspects. Lectures, workshop exercises. Evaluation: research and writing exercises.

Class Schedule

The course surveys the literature of biblical studies, theology, church history, and pastoral ministry. For each it will identify key works of reference and tools for the study of that discipline. Concurrently it will treat of the different genres of theological writing and different sources of information pertinent to the discipline. Additional topics covered include: evaluating information, bibliographic tools, citation styles, ethical aspects, and the language of gender.

Course Structure, Format, and Theme

The course covers the different tools and resources (and how to locate and use them), in tandem with the different genres of writing in theology. Typically each week will include treatment of the literature on a discipline, tools and resources associated with it, and a genre of writing. To avoid repetition and duplication certain genres of writing are addressed in one unit and not in others: e.g. book reviewing is dealt with under Theology (but obviously it also applies to other areas like history and pastoral); research paper is addressed under History but it is applicable to other areas, etc.

Course Textbooks & Readings

Students are required to purchase:

1. William Strunk and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York: Macmillan, 2007. Cost about \$8.35 plus tax.

2. Nancy Jean Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. Cost about \$23 plus tax.
3. M. Kibbe. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downer's Grove: IVP Academic, 2016. \$12.99 plus tax.

Both are available through CRUX Books
 Wycliffe College
 Hoskin Ave.,
 Toronto, ON
 M5S 1H7.
sales@cruxbooks.com
 (416) 599-2749 or 1-866-607-3348.

Additional readings are available on the course website (Blackboard). They are marked below with an asterisk*.

Pre-Course Reading

Read the introduction in M. Kibbe. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*, 11-44.

Course Units

UNIT 1: Biblical Studies

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Introduction to the literature of biblical studies
- Introduction to the tools of biblical studies: concordances, lexicons.
- Introduction to the methods of biblical studies: passage analysis, word study.
- Genres of writing: exegesis, word study.

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *Ch. 5: Important Resources for Bible Study (63-74)
 - *Ch. 6: The Use of Concordances (75-79) &
 - *Ch. 7: The Importance of Lexicons (81-88)
- all in Barber, Cyril J. & Robert M. Krauss. *An introduction to theological research: a guide for college and seminary students*. (2nd ed., rev. and expanded) Lanham, MD.: University Press of America, 2000.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 11-22, 268-272.
 - Kibbe, *From Topic*, 101-126.
 - *J. Rutherford, "Analysing a Passage" in J.B. Job (ed.), *How to study the Bible An introduction to methods of Bible study* (Downer's Grove, IVP: 1979), 35-45.
 - *D. France, "Word Study" in J.B. Job (ed.), *How to study the Bible An introduction to methods of Bible study* (Downer's Grove, IVP: 1979), 54-64.
 - *Lucretia B. Yaghjian. *Writing theology well: a rhetoric for theological and biblical writers*. (New York: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2015), 184-6.

- Unit notes on *Introduction to Biblical Studies and *James D. Ernest “How Has New Testament Scholarship Changed over Time?”

Assignment Associated with this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 2: Reading

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Reading skills, techniques, and strategies
- Identification of jargon
- Genres of Writing: Abstract

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *D. Core, *The Seminary Student Writes* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000), 29-46.
- *Yaghjian. *Writing theology*, 48-49.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 153-167.
- Kibbe. *From Topic*, 45-75
- *Abstract Samples: Gosnell and Kelhoffer.
- View: *Abstracts (Slides)

Assignment associated with this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 3: Writing

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Nature of theological writing
- Genres of Writing: Essay

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *Unit Notes
- Strunk & White, 1-65 (scan for relevance), 66-95.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 179-187, 168-178, 219-236.
- Kibbe. *From Topic*, 93-96, 147-8.
- *Schemm, Peter R. "The writing pastor: an essay on spiritual formation" *Themelios*, 37 no 3 (2012), 480-487.

View: Writing Across Borders

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/quI0vq9VF-c>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/koViA1gqiUs>

Part 3: <https://youtu.be/g0wbDcfltIU>

Assignment for this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 4: Theology

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Tools and Resources: (i) encyclopedias, guides, and dictionaries (ii) monographs, articles
- Genres of Writing in Theology: (i) Critique and Book Review (ii) Thesis Statement: Definition and Development

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *Yaghjian, *Writing theology*, 75-6.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 66-71.
- Kibbe, *From Topic*, 77-91, 127-131.
- *John Webster, "Introduction: Systematic Theology" in Torrance, Iain, Kathryn Tanner, John Webster. *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 1-14.
- Guide: *Writing Theological Book Reviews

View: Instructional videos on course website.

- Viewing: (You will need to do this for the following in order to do the assignment that follows):

Search Strategies

- Developing Search Strategies: <http://www.library.tufts.edu/researchpaper/developSearchStrategies.htm>
- Formulating a Search Strategy: <http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/tutorials/search>
- Creating a Search Strategy: <http://library.buffalo.edu/help/research-tips/search>
- Generating Search Terms: <http://www.clipinfolit.org/tutorials/generating-search-terms>

Books

- Starting your research on UTL <https://youtu.be/JU6iZgvRSGg>
- Search for a book by title in the catalogue: <https://youtu.be/L1A0Zk5T5kY>
- Search by title: <https://youtu.be/L1A0Zk5T5kY>
- Subject Search: <https://youtu.be/ISE0WSXuxxg>
- Keyword Search: <https://youtu.be/Q3MJOf-euV0>
- 5 ways to improve your catalogue searches: <https://youtu.be/JU6iZgvRSGg>
- Finding ebooks: https://youtu.be/dUwi86_5WrE

Articles

- 5 ways to improve your article searches: <https://youtu.be/0gmZLaI8gpY>
- Connect Google Scholar to library resources: <https://youtu.be/MrTtPRVavy4>
- Finding Articles: <https://youtu.be/J1fux5Ag4KA>
- Find full-text article by title: <https://youtu.be/aE0OZvAIUo4>
- ATLA Religion Database: <https://youtu.be/y481wTg3Qkk?list=PLYvvhWirGDryU5aU4XWCK3MhZlSqNyoNF>
- ATLA Scripture Search: <http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250470&p=1670752>

- Find an article from a citation: <https://youtu.be/rNKUCcFy9Hc>
- Finding articles by author: https://youtu.be/ih9l_S18P9Q
- How to find if a journal article is peer reviewed: <https://youtu.be/h0spOZ7YV10>

Assignment for this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 5: Church History

Topics Covered in the Unit

- The Literature of Church History
- Tools and Resources: Primary Works
- Genres of Writing: (i) Research Paper (ii) Annotated Bibliography

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 1-7, 99-127.
- *James S. Bradley & Richard A. Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods* 2nd. ed. (Grand Rapids: 2016), 131-160.
- Kibbe, *From Topic*,
- *Guidelines for a Literature Survey and an Annotated Bibliography

Assignment for this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 6: Pastoral Studies

Topics Covered in the Unit

- The Literature of Pastoral Ministry
- Tools and Resources: Internet
- Genres of Writing: (i) Reflection Paper (ii) Case Study and (iii) Qualitative & Quantitative Research.

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *Lucretia Yaghjian, "Writing Theological Reflection Well: Reflecting on Writing as a Theological Practice," *Teaching Theology and Religion* 7: 2 (2004), 83-94.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 30-62, 145-152, 196-215 (skim).

Assignment for this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 7: Bibliographic and Citation Styles

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Bibliographic and Citation styles for different formats (book, article, essay, etc) print and electronic

- Format for footnotes/endnotes
- Using RefWorks bibliographic software

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- Yaghjian, *Writing theology*, 146-156, 186-8.
- Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*, 128-144, 188-195, 237-262.
- Kibbe, *From Topic*, 133-145.
- *Guide: [Citation and Bibliographic Formats for Theological Papers](#)

Assignment for this Unit: see Unit Assignments.

UNIT 8: Ethics, Gender, and Language

Topics Covered in the Unit

- Ethics of the Craft
- The Language of Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Disability

What To Do in this Unit

Read:

- *Yaghjian, *Writing theology*, 143-146, 285-6.
- *Core, *The Seminary Student Writes*, 107-112.
- **The Canadian style: a guide to writing and editing* (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1997), 253-260.

Assignments

There are two categories of assignments for this course:

1. Research Exercises

For the full list of assignments see Unit Assignments.

Due Dates: On or before:

Exercise 1: 14 July

Exercise 2: 28 July.

Exercise 3: 11 Aug.

Exercise 4: 25 Aug.

Value: 40% (4 exercises @ 10% each).

2. Writing Exercises

For the full list of assignments see Unit Assignments.

For the writing assignments, it is recommended that you choose a genre in which you need practice, rather than one in which you already are competent.

Choose **three** genres of theological writing that you are **not already** practiced in (e.g. essay, reflection, research, critique/book review, case study) and complete a sample writing in those genres. The sample must not have been submitted for another course.

Length: Variable depending on the choice of genre. For essay, reflection, research, book review: 2500 words (6-7 pages).

Value: 20% each

Due Date: On or before:

Exercise 1: 21 July 2017

Exercise 2: 11 Aug. 2017

Exercise 3: 1 Sept. 2017

Unit Assignments

I. Research Exercises

Here are the options for assignments under Research Exercises. Some will refer to documents: these are marked below with an asterisk* and are available on the course website under Assignment Documents.

It is recommended that you complete exercises that you need practice in, rather than ones you feel competent in already. Some assignments derive from particular Units of the course. These are noted below. It is best not to do those assignments until you have completed the Unit.

There are four exercises. You can do them in any order but the submission dates are as follows:

On or before:

Exercise 1: 14 July

Exercise 2: 28 July.

Exercise 3: 11 Aug.

Exercise 4: 25 Aug.

Topics

Choose from *any four* of the following:

- Using the samples in the Rutherford* reading do a passage analysis of Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 [Unit 1] or
- Using the sample word study by Davis* and following the France* reading, do a word study following the same format for any **one** of the following words: vine, rock, ark, white, sycamore tree. You may choose another word, but please pre-approve it me. [Unit 1]
- Read the article by either English* or Tyson* and write an abstract of long paragraph length. [Unit 2]
- Do the Writer's Diet Test [http://writersdiet.com/?page_id=4]. Select one of your assignments already written for another course. Select a section with c.1000 words. Run it through the Writers' Diet Test.

For this exercise the submission should consist of three documents:

- i. the original 1000 text,
 - ii. the result from the writer's diet test, and
 - iii. the result from the changes made
[Unit 3]
- Pick a sample topic (e.g. Christians and the environment, Catholic Church and Nazism,) of your own. Note: make it concise enough that you are likely to find material on it.
 - i. Go to the library catalogue (<https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca>) and locate a mixture of resources (3 monographs (single author), 4 articles (peer reviewed), and any two (2) of: e-book, encyclopedia entry, essay in a collection (editor as author), or website.
 - ii. Using the [Citation and Bibliographic Formats for Theological Papers*](#) compile a bibliography of these sources according to the format/style and examples. At the head of the page state your topic and underneath list the different items you have found,
 - iii. Compile a separate listing of their use as footnotes or endnotes.
[Unit 7]
 - Produce a thesis statement from any **one** of the following general topics:
 - a. Luther and grace.
 - b. The invention of printing and the Reformation.
 - c. The Catholic Church and the Scientific Revolution.
 - d. The Church and colonialism.
 - e. The Sermon on the Mount and poverty.
 - f. Ecumenism and the Bible.
 - g. Rote prayer and spontaneous prayer.
 - h. Evolution and creationism

[Unit 4]

- Plagiarism. Do the plagiarism test. Link: <https://www.indiana.edu/~academy/firstPrinciples/certificationTests/index.html> Submit the completion certificate to me. [Unit 8]

Assignment Submission Format

Follow these three steps:

- i. Name your file “re” =research exercise, the number of the assignment, and add your initials are your initials. Example: re1tp, re2tp, re3tp, re4tp.
- ii. Put this (e.g. re1tp) in the subject line of your email. This facilitates the identification, grading, and return of assignments.
- iii. Submit your assignments electronically as attachments to my email:
thomas.power@utoronto.ca

Following this submission format facilitates the identification, grading, and return of assignments.

Students who do not follow this format will have their papers returned for resubmission and this may incur the deduction of marks for late submission.

II. Writing Exercises

It is recommended that you complete exercises that you need practice in, rather than ones you feel competent in already.

Some assignments derive from particular Units of the course, so it is best not to do those assignments until you have completed the Unit.

You can do them in any order but the submission dates are as follows:

On or before:

Exercise 1: 21 July 2017

Exercise 2: 11 Aug. 2017

Exercise 3: 1 Sept. 2017

Topics

Choose from *any three* of the following:

- Book Review. Following the guidelines in [Writing Theological Book Reviews*](#). Write a book review of a book in theology (broadly defined) that you have not read before. Notify me of the title beforehand. [Unit 4]
- Annotated Bibliography. The selection here can be based on what you compiled for the sample topic under Research Exercises. [Unit 6].
- Case Study. [Unit 6]
- Research Paper. [Unit 5]
- Other.

Assignment Submission Format

Follow these three steps:

- i. Name your file “we” =writing exercise, the number of the assignment, and add your initials are your initials. Example: we1tp, we2tp, we3tp.
- ii. Put this (e.g. we1tp) in the subject line of your email. This facilitates the identification, grading, and return of assignments.
- iii. Submit your assignments electronically as attachments to my email:
thomas.power@utoronto.ca

Following this submission format facilitates the identification, grading, and return of assignments.

Students who do not follow this format will have their papers returned for resubmission and this may incur the deduction of marks for late submission.

Learning Outcomes

| Course Outcomes | Course Element | Program Outcomes |
|--|--|---|
| By the end of this course, students will | This outcome will be demonstrated by these course elements | This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of Wycliffe’s M. Div. & MTS outcomes in whole or in part |
| Describe the range and content of information sources in the theological disciplines | Units 1, 5-7 | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2, 2.3 |
| Gain understanding and practice in the different genres of theological writing | Unit 3-4 Writing Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.3 |
| Locate and evaluate relevant sources of information in the theological disciplines | Units 4, 7 Research Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2, 2.3 |
| Appreciate the need to use each type of research tool effectively | Units 1, 5-7 Research Exercises Writing Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2, 2.3 |
| Develop skills in locating and using information | Unit 7 Research Exercises Writing Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2, 2.3 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| resources on the internet | | |
| Develop skills in the use of the correct citation and bibliographic formats | Unit 4 Writing Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2 |
| Utilize information ethically in theological writing and academic discourse | Unit 8 Writing Exercises | M.Div. 2.2 MTS 2.2, 2.3 |

TST Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalents | Grade Point | Grasp of Subject Matter | Other qualities expected |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations | | | | |
| A+ | 90-100 | 4.0 | Profound and Creative | Strong evidence of original t |
| A | 85-89 | 4.0 | Outstanding | |
| A- | 80-84 | 3.7 | Excellent | Clear evidence of original th |
| B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, | | | | |
| B+ | 77-79 | 3.3 | Very Good | Good critical capacity an |
| B | 73-76 | 3.0 | Good | |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| B- | 70-72 | 2.7 | Satisfactory at a post- baccalaureate level. | Adequate critical capacity a |
| FZ | 0-69 | 0 | Failure | Failure to meet the above crit |

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the prior written permission of the instructor, students may be granted an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed-upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be arranged before the completion of the term in which the course is taken; at a point no later than the last day of exam week, students need either to have submitted all required work for the course or to have made a formal request for an extension. The extension request form is available on the Wycliffe College website or from the Registrar’s office.

NB. One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Academic integrity

All TST students are subject to U of T’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. Copies of the code are available at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm Please take special note of the section on plagiarism. For a helpful set of guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism, see www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html. This is part of a more general—and equally helpful—website that provides advice on academic writing (www.utoronto.ca/writing/advice.html). For specific guidance on the avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing see: http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library_archives/theological_resources/theological_guides/avoiding_plagiarism.html

Select Bibliography

Adler, Mortimer. *How to Read a Book*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Alexander, Patrick H.(ed.) *The SBL handbook of style: for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and early Christian studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.

Barber, Cyril J. & Robert M. Krauss. *An introduction to theological research: a guide for college and seminary students*. 2nd ed. Lanham, MD.: University Press of America, 2000.

Baron, Dennis. *Grammar and Gender*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1986.

Barr, James. *Holy Scripture: Canon, Authority, Criticism*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1983.

Barzun, Jacques and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*, Fourth Edition. New York: Harcourt Brace Janovich, Publishers, 1985.

Berke, Jacqueline. *Twenty Questions for the Writer: A Rhetoric with Readings*. 2nd ed. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.

Booth, Wyane et al. [The Craft of Research](#). 2nd ed. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003.

Bradley, James E. & Richard A. Muller. *Church history: an introduction to research, reference works, and methods*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Caldie, Roberta W. *Dominance and Language: A New Perspective on Sexism*. Washington D.C.: University Press of America, 1981.

Clive, John. *Not By Fact Alone: Essays on the Writing and Reading of History*. New York: Knopf, 1989.

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Cross, Donna Woolfolk. *Word Abuse: How the Words We Use Use Us*. New York: Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, 1979.

Davidson, James West and Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact: the Art of Historical Detection*. New York: Knopf, 1982.

Frank, Francine Wattman and Paula A. Treichler. *Language, Gender, and Professional Writing: Theoretical Approaches and Guidelines for Nonsexist Use*. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1989.

Glynn, John. *Commentary & Reference Survey: a Comprehensive Guide to Biblical and Theological Resources*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

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González, Justo. *Essential Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. González, Justo. *The Changing Shape of Church History*. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 2002.

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki & Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

- Hardesty, Nancy A. *Inclusive Language in the Church*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.
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- Stackhouse, John (ed.) *Evangelical Futures: A Conversation on Theological Method*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Satterthwaite, Philip & David Wright (ed.) *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Stewart, David R. *The literature of theology: a guide for students and pastors*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
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- Tucker, Dennis C. *Research Techniques for Scholars and Students in Religion and Theology*. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2000.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013.
- Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Williams, Robert C. *The Historian's Toolbox: a Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History*. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe, 2003.
- Williams, Rowan. *Why Study the Past? The Quest for the Historical Church*. London: DLT, 2005.
- Wren, Brain A. *What Language Shall I Borrow? God-Talk in Worship: A Male Response to Feminist Theology*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989.

Yaghjian, Lucretia B. *Writing Theology Well: a Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers*.
2nd ed. New York: Bloomsbury/T. & T. Clark, 2015.

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