



## Theological Research Methodology

THEO510 [all sections]

Southwestern College Professional Studies

### COURSE SYLLABUS

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#### I. Course Catalog Description

This course enables learners to obtain an understanding of what is expected in graduate level theological research and to begin work on the organized research for their forthcoming master's thesis. A proposed thesis topic and a research bibliography are developed in concert with the course instructor. The finished product of the course includes an annotated bibliography of pertinent research materials, a preliminary outline of the entire thesis (to three levels), and an estimated writing schedule.

#### II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. C., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The craft of research* (3rd ed.). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Vyhmeister, N. J. (2008). *Quality research papers: For students of religion and theology* (2nd ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

#### III. Course Delivery

There are two forms of course delivery Ground and Online:

Ground courses, or those that meet face-to-face on a weekly basis, also have an online component, which means some of the course content is delivered online. Southwestern College utilizes the Blackboard (Bb) learning management system.

Online courses typically contain a blend of synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (not real-time) material. Depending on the course, you may be required at times to interact "live," which might mean attending a scheduled Collaborate session. You may also be required to view or listen to a lecture or other video on a specific date and time. Of course, if there are circumstances that prohibit you from logging in to a scheduled synchronous activity, an alternate assignment will be provided. Please refer to the [Course at a Glance](#) section which will note any synchronous activities.

#### IV. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Compose a graduate-level position paper.
2. Identify and formulate a well-defined research topic.
3. Find, analyze, and evaluate diverse kinds of relevant scholarly information (e.g. biblical, theological, philosophical, and scientific).
4. Develop an annotated research bibliography consisting of 10 scholarly sources.
5. Construct an outline of one's thesis to three progressive levels.
6. Map out a projected writing schedule.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

## V. Expectations

Learners can expect the instructor to:

- Respond to e-mail and phone contact attempts promptly (if you do not receive a response after 48 hours please follow-up as a technology glitch may have occurred)
- Substantially participate in weekly discussions/lecture
- Employ impartial and consistent grading practices
- Provide assignment grades and feedback in one week or less

Instructors can expect the learner to:

- Review the syllabus in its entirety requesting clarification prior to beginning week 1 coursework
- Obtain access to the required course materials prior to the class start date or notify the instructor of any delay no later than Tuesday of week 1 of the course
- Submit course assignment questions with enough notice to receive and incorporate feedback prior to the assignment due date (see [course late policy](#))
- Possess basic skills in Microsoft Office, and have the ability to access Blackboard
- Include the [course ID](#) (Ex: CORE101) on all e-mail correspondence
- Check Blackboard course announcements often during the course
- Communicate with instructors and classmates in a professional and respectful manner
- Substantially participate in weekly discussion/lecture (it is strongly suggested that Bb posts be prepared in a word processing software application then checked for grammar errors prior to submission)
- Submit assignments via the appropriate avenue (e.g. discussion board, Bb assignment link, etc.)
- Adhere to the Southwestern College [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Standards of Academic Integrity](#)
- Create and submit original work

## VI. Grading Scale and Criteria

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Course Scale</u>
A+	4.00	100%
A	4.00	94.0-99.9%
A-	3.67	90.0-93.9%
B+	3.33	87.0-89.9%
B	3.00	84.0-86.9%
B-	2.67	80.0-83.9%
C+	2.33	77.0-79.9%
C	2.00	74.0-76.9%
C-	1.67	70.0-73.9%
D+	1.33	67.0-69.9%
D	1.00	64.0-66.9%
D-	0.67	60.0-63.9%
F	0.00	< 60.0%

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>Criteria and Guidelines:</u>
A+	The grade of A+ is reserved for a perfect score (100%) of all work in a course.
A	Superior work: Superior performance that far exceeds the minimum expectations and demonstrates an excellent understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
B	Above average work: Good performance that exceeds the minimum expectations and demonstrates a higher than average understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
C	Average Work: Adequate performance that meets the minimal expectations and demonstrates a basic understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
D	Minimally acceptable work for receiving credit: Below average performance that does not meet the minimum expectations and/or does not demonstrate a basic understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
F	Failure: Unacceptable performance (in a professional context, this means “you’re fired.”)
WF	Withdraw/Fail: A final grade of WF will be recorded for learners who either never access/attend or submit any assignments for courses.
WD, AW, I, S, W, WM	Please refer to the <a href="#">Grading System</a> section of the appropriate catalog.

## VII. College Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the college policies as listed in the appropriate catalog:

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#): For learners who do not possess a bachelor’s degree, are pursuing an additional bachelor’s degree or for graduate learners who are enrolled in 100-400 level courses.
- [Graduate Catalog](#): For learners who have earned a bachelor’s degree and are pursuing a master’s degree or graduate level certificate or learners who are enrolled in 500+ level courses.

[Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Policies for Dealing with Violations of Academic Integrity](#)

[Incomplete Policy](#)

[Withdraw Policy](#)

## VIII. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the Blackboard course.

## IX. [Technology Requirements](#)

### X. Citation

Check the Academic Resources link in the course menu of your Blackboard course to find the specific requirements and resources for formatting manuscripts and documenting various kinds of sources when submitting written work.

### XI. SafeAssign®

This instructor may use SafeAssign®, which is a system that allows for checking the originality of writing and proper citing. Your assignments may be run through this software.

**XII. Course Requirements:**

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	5	150	15%
Writing Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Methods Process Assignment (150 pts)</li> <li>Bibliography &amp; Initial Outline (150 pts)</li> <li>Annotated Bibliography (200 pts)</li> <li>Detailed Thesis Outline (200 pts)</li> <li>Projected Writing Schedule (150 pts)</li> </ul>	5	850	85%
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

**XIII. Course at a Glance:**

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	Participate in the Introductions discussion Read The Craft of Research, pp. 3-67 Read Quality Research Papers, pp. 1-34	Unit 1 Discussion
2	Read The Craft of Research, pp. 68-101 Read Quality Research Papers, pp. 35-55	Unit 2 Discussion Research Methods Process Assignment
3	Read The Craft of Research, pp. 105-151 Read Quality Research Papers, pp. 57-78	Unit 3 Discussion Bibliography & Initial Outline
4	Read The Craft of Research, pp. 173-202 Read Quality Research Papers, pp. 79-102	Unit 4 Discussion Annotated Bibliography
5	Read The Craft of Research, pp. 203-210 Read Quality of Research Papers, pp 103-111	Unit 5 Discussion Detailed Thesis Outline
6	Read The Craft of Research, pp. 187-202 Read Quality of Research Papers, pp 113-123	Projected Writing Schedule

**XIV. College Resources**[Advising](#)[Self-Service](#)[Withdraw Form](#)[Blackboard Learn](#)[SCPS Bookstore](#)[Deets Library](#)[Online Writing Center](#): View this brief [video tutorial](#) that explains how to enroll in BlackboardIT Support: [Marilyn.clements@sckans.edu](mailto:Marilyn.clements@sckans.edu) or 888-684-5335 x.121**XV. ADA Compliance Statement**

Southwestern College Professional Studies is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that may impact your learning and for which you may need accommodations, please notify the Director of Learner Support and Academic Success, at 888.684.5335.

**XVI. Senior Capstone and Graduate Projects:**

The majority of the programs offered by Southwestern College Professional Studies conclude with a Senior Capstone or Graduate Project. During the Capstone or Project course students will be required to retrieve papers, assignments and projects that they created during their entire program of study. For this reason it is imperative that students design a method of storing program course work for use during their final class at Southwestern College Professional Studies.