

SYLLABUS

The syllabus is subject to revision until the first day of class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the theory and techniques of scholarly research, the fundamentals of library science, and the mechanics of thesis writing. The submission of a literature review and an acceptable thesis proposal will constitute a passing grade for this course. Required of thesis students. (3 credits)

This is not a classroom course. Classes are only 30 or 40 minutes a week. The course assumes that students will spend about an hour a week doing the reading for the coming class, and will spend about ten hours a week on their theses. This work will be reading and researching in order to find a suitable thesis topic: an interest narrows to a broad topic, which narrows to a focused topic, which narrows to questions, and finally to a particular question / problem / thesis. This narrowing process normally takes a good deal of unsupervised research and reading on the part of the student.

The course is divided into a fall and a winter component. The fall component will constitute primarily in going over the course text, deciding on a topic and an advisor, and writing a literature review. The winter component will not meet for class, but students will meet privately with the advisor, and the instructor as needed. The winter component is devoted to the student writing an acceptable thesis proposal.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course students will:

1. Understand the importance of correct research.
2. Understand the process of research and writing.
3. Demonstrate beginning ability to carry out the research processes.
4. Present an acceptable literature review and an acceptable thesis proposal, which will be approved by the seminary faculty.
5. Value the importance of proper research for scholarly work.

COURSE TEXTS

(Texts available at the Providence Bookstore: 1-204-433-7110 or 1-800-668-7768; email: bookstore@prov.ca.)

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, Third edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Strunk, W. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*, Fourth edition. New York: Longman, 2000.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read *The Craft of Research*, and *The Elements of Style*.
See Weekly Schedule
2. Choose a topic in consultation with your thesis advisor. Present the topic in one paragraph. Due September 30, 2011.
3. Write a literature review (approximately 8-10 pages). The review should describe clearly the state of the discussion in the scholarly literature thus far, identifying the various perspectives that have been offered on their proposed topic and the most important scholars whose work will have to be examined in the course of the thesis.

A literature review is not an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is list of books with a short section describing the contents of that book. A literature review, on the other hand, is an essay, and should be submitted in proper essay format. This essay describes the state of the discussion in the scholarly literature to this point in time. It can be organized around the main ideas pertaining to the thesis question, or around the main writers. It will refer to different writers and writings, and these should be identified in normal footnotes. A literature review should provide a large part of the first chapter of the thesis. Due December 1, 2011.

4. In consultation with the student's advisor, the student will submit an acceptable thesis proposal. The proposal is acceptable when the advisor is satisfied. Due April 1, 2012.

COURSE GRADING

Grading is pass/fail.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept 9	Introduction to the Class/Syllabus
Sept 16	Nature of Research and Proposals Read chapters 1 and 2 of <i>The Craft of Research</i> ; and <i>Elements, Elementary Rules of Usage</i> #1 - #7. Bring your questions.
Sept 23	<i>The Craft of Research</i> , chapter 3; <i>Elements, Elementary Rules</i> #8 to <u>Principles of Composition</u> #13
Sept 30	Library Resources (Guest – Terry Kennedy); due: thesis topic paragraph
Oct 7	<i>No Class: October Intrasession and Thanksgiving Break</i>
Oct 14	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapter 4; <i>Elements, Principles of Composition</i> #14 to #18
Oct 21	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapter 5; <i>Elements, Principles of Composition</i> #19 - #22
Oct 28	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapter 6; <i>Elements, A Few Matters of Form and Words Commonly Misused</i> up to "Irregardless"
Nov 4	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapter 7; <i>Elements, Words Commonly Misused</i> from "Kind of" to end of chapter
Nov 11	<i>No Class: Remembrance Day</i>
Nov 18	<i>No Class: November Intrasession Week</i>
Nov 25	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapters 8 and 9; <i>Elements, An Approach to Style Reminders</i> #1 - 10
Dec 2	<i>The Craft of Research</i> chapter 10; <i>Element, Reminders</i> #11 - 21; due: literature reviews