

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the theory and techniques of scholarly research, the fundamentals of library science, and the mechanics of thesis writing. The submission of an acceptable thesis proposal will constitute a passing grade for this course. Required of thesis students. (2 credits)

The course is divided into a fall and a winter component, each approximately a one-hour credit. The fall component will constitute primarily in going over the course text, writing a literature review, and deciding on a topic and an advisor. The winter component will not meet for class, but students will meet privately with 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 thesis proposal, which will be approved by the seminary faculty.
5. Value the importance of proper research for scholarly work.

COURSE TEXT

(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* (Second or Third Edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003, 2008.

Strunk, W. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 4th Ed. New York: Longman, 2000.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (Seventh Edition, revised by Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read the Booth, Colomb and Williams text, and the Strunk & White text.
Due: See Weekly Schedule
2. Choose a topic in consultation with your thesis advisor.
Due: December
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.

Due: December

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.

COURSE GRADING

Grading is pass/fail.

COURSE SCHEDULE

If you are taking Research Methods, get in contact with Ed Neufeld regarding the weekly class time. The class is normally quite small, and we pick a time during the week that suits everyone.

Week 1	Introduction to the Class/Syllabus
Week 2	Nature of Research and Proposals Read chapters 1 and 2 of <i>The Craft of Research</i> ; and <i>Elements</i> , "Elementary Rules of Usage" #1 - #7. Bring your questions.

- Week 3 The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process
The Craft of Research, chapters 3 and 4, *Elements*, "Elementary Rules," #8 to "Principles of Composition," #13.
- Week 4 Library Resources (Guest – Terry Kennedy)
- Week 5 *The Craft of Research* chapters 5 and 6; *Elements*, "Principles of Composition," #14 to #18
- Week 6 *The Craft of Research* chapter 7 and 8; *Elements*, "Principles of Composition" #19 - #22
- Week 7 *The Craft of Research* chapter 9 and 10; *Elements*, "A Few Matters of Form," up to "Irregardless"
- Week 8 *The Craft of Research* chapter 12; *Elements*, "A Few Matters of Form," from "Kind of" to end of chapter
- Week 9 *The Craft of Research* chapter 16 (2nd Ed: Ch 14); *Elements*, "An Approach to Style," up to Reminder #10, "Use Orthodox Spelling"
- Week 10 *The Craft of Research* chapter 17 (2nd Ed: Ch 16); *Elements*, finish "An Approach to Style." Topics and literature reviews due.