

LIDLAW GRADUATE SCHOOL
MASTER OF THEOLOGY
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

R351.830 Theological Research and Writing

Auckland Campus
Coordinator: Martin Sutherland

2015
NQF Level 8; 30 Credits

1. COURSE STRUCTURE

The course runs through the first semester of 2015. The class dates are 13-16 April and 11-15 May 2015 at Laidlaw College, Henderson Campus. The course consists of pre-Reading, two teaching blocks of class time, and follow-up personal study to finalise a major research project. Interaction with a faculty adviser will also be important.

Communication between Course Coordinator and students, and the necessary forms and papers relating to the Course will be accessed through Moodle – The Laidlaw College Online Learning Management System.

2. CONTENT OVERVIEW

1. The theology of Christian scholarship
2. Planning a research project, from topic to completed proposal
3. Dealing with a supervisor
4. Humanities, theology and social science research methods
5. Research ethics
6. Implementing a research proposal and constructing a thesis
7. The conventions of scholarly writing
8. Presenting and publishing the results of research
9. Researching, writing and submitting a major research essay on the basis of an approved Proposal

KEY DATES - 2015

13-16 April. Block course 1, 9.00-12.30 pm Monday–Thursday, Henderson Campus

11-15 May Block course 2, 9.00-12.30 pm Monday–Friday, Henderson Campus

29 June Research Essay Due

3. ASSESSMENT and Criteria for assessment

ASSIGNMENT ONE: RESEARCH JOURNAL 25% [learning outcomes 1, 2, 4, 7]

First part: 1500 words

To be submitted by end of 12 April.

A. 2-300 words

(taken from Potter, *Doing Postgraduate Research*, see extract on Moodle)

Reflect on why you are doing postgraduate study. Try to be as specific as possible. Note down what you expect to have come out of your work when you have finished in terms of

1. results

2. you personally
3. what you will be able to do that you could not do before

B. 1200-1300 Words

Engage with the supplied articles by Coakley, Hitchen and Sutherland. Outline your own understanding of the theology of scholarship

These articles are available on the Moodle site:

- Coakley, Sarah "Theological Scholarship as Religious Vocation." *Christian Higher Education* 5 (Jan-Mar 2006): 55-68.
- John Hitchen, 'Confirming the Christian Scholar and Theological Educator's Identity through New Testament Metaphor,' *Evangelical Review of Theology*, 35:2 (July 2011): 276-287
- Sutherland, Martin: 'Seeking Wisdom: Towards a Christian view of Scholarship', *Stimulus* 19/2 (July 2012): 4-13.

Second Part: 500 words

To be submitted on 15 May

A **Research proposal** of 500 words plus bibliography.

The shape of a research proposal will be discussed during the first block course. This proposal will relate to your research essay for this course.

Students will present a 10 minute oral synopsis of their research during the second teaching block.

Do not embark on your research until you have the agreement of your faculty adviser that your proposal is suitable. The faculty adviser will communicate their acceptance to the course coordinator, and to the student.

The Research Journal will be marked on these criteria

- Assignment and reading have been completed
- Critical skill
- Good application shown to student's own project
- Clear structure and overall arguments
- Good grammar and referencing

ASSIGNMENT TWO: RESEARCH PROJECT: 7000 WORD RESEARCH ESSAY [learning outcomes 5, 6] Due: Monday 29 June 2015 75%

Each student will submit a research essay on a literature-based topic negotiated with the course coordinator (developing the research proposal included in the Research Journal). This essay will embody the results of independent research and include a reflection on methodology. It will follow scholarly conventions and be written in a form which would be suitable for submission to a scholarly journal in the appropriate discipline.

The student will complete this essay with the advice of a Laidlaw faculty member in their field. The student will discuss their proposal and get the go-ahead of their adviser before starting their research and should expect to meet with the adviser twice more during the writing process.

NB: should the student wish to write a longer essay in order to obtain early entry to a PhD programme or as the basis for a scholarship application, this can be arranged by discussion with the course coordinator.

Research Project Grading Criteria

- The stated topic has been fully addressed in terms introduced in the essay
- Reading and research – sufficient, up to date sources are used as is appropriate for the content and method and question
- Critical skill – sources and ideas are engaged critically, and available approaches assessed
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Reflects on Methodology/Uses method with skill

4. LEARNING HOURS

Class time:	30 hours
Research Journal;	60 hours
Research Essay:	<u>210 hours</u>
TOTAL:	300 hours

5. Text Book and Required Reading:

The principal text on the nuts and bolts of research is Nancy Jean Vyhmeister and Terry Robertson, *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers: for students of religion and theology*; 3rd edn. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014).

Copies are on reserve at the Laidlaw library but you are strongly advised to purchase your own copy. Copies can be ordered from academic bookshops or purchased through Laidlaw Graduate School for \$40.00 (contact the P-G Office, ph. 09 837 9791).

The following **articles** will be available on the Moodle site and are essential to the Research Journal assignment.

- Coakley, Sarah "Theological Scholarship as Religious Vocation." *Christian Higher Education* 5 (Jan-Mar 2006): 55-68.
- John Hitchen, 'Confirming the Christian Scholar and Theological Educator's Identity through New Testament Metaphor,' *Evangelical Review of Theology*, 35:2 (July 2011): 276-287
- Sutherland, Martin: 'Seeking Wisdom: Towards a Christian view of Scholarship', *Stimulus* 19/2 (July 2012): 4-13.

Also **useful preparation** for the first Block Course are:

- Sword, Helen *Stylish Academic Writing* (Harvard: Harvard University Press, 2012)
- Booth, Wayne & Gregory G. Colomb *The Craft of Research* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 2008)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following are general materials of relevance for this course:

On Christian Faith and Scholarship

Bennie R. *Quality with Soul: How Six Premier Colleges and Universities Keep faith with the Religious Traditions* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Carmody, D.L. *Organizing a Christian Mind: A Theology of Higher Education* Valley Forge, Trinity Press, 1996.

Claerbaut, D. *Faith and Learning on the Edge: A bold New Look at Religion in Higher Education*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Duce, P. & Strange, D (eds), *Keeping Your Balance: Approaching theological and religious studies*, Leicester: IVP/Apollos, 2001.

Gill, D.W. *Should God Get Tenure? Essays on Religion and Higher Education*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Hamilton, M.S., 'Reflection and Response: The Elusive Idea of Christian Scholarship' *Christian Scholars Review* XXXI: 1, Fall 2001, 13-30.

Hart, D.G., 'Christian Scholars, Secular Universities and the Problem with the Antithesis', *Christian Scholars Review* XXX: 4, Summer 2001, 383-402.

Henry, D.V. & Agee B.R. (eds) *Faithful Learning and the Christian Scholarly Vocation* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Henry, D.V., 'Intellectual Integrity in the Christian Scholar's Life', *Christian Scholars Review* XXXIII, Fall 2003, 55-74.

- Hitchen, John M., 'Confirming the Christian Scholar and Theological Educator's Identity through New Testament Metaphor,' *Evangelical Review of Theology*, 35:2 (July 2011): 276-287.
- Kelley, Joseph 'Theological Foundations for Augustinian Education' 1999, Merrimack College.
- Moroney S.K., 'How Sin Affects Scholarship: A New Model' *Christian Scholars Review* XXVIII: 3, 432-451.
- Poe, H.L. *Christianity in the Academy: Teaching at the Intersection of Faith and Learning* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Stackhouse, John G. Jr., 'Why Johnny Can't Produce Christian Scholarship: A Reflection on Real-Life Impediments,' Ch 9 in *Evangelical Landscapes: Facing Critical Issues of the Day*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002:141-160.
- Stott, John R. W. *Your Mind Matters: the Place of the Mind in the Christian Life*, London: Inter-Varsity, 1972.
- Sutherland, Martin: 'Seeking Wisdom: Towards a Christian view of Scholarship', *Stimulus* Vol 19/2 July 2012, 4-13 .
- Tennent, Timothy C., *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way we Think about and Discuss Theology*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007: 1-24.
- Wells, R.A. *Keeping Faith: Embracing the Tensions in Christian Higher Education*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Yaghjian, L.B. 'Teaching Theological Reflection Well, Reflecting on Writing as a Theological Practice' *Teaching Theology and Religion* 2004 Vol 7, no. 2, 83-94.

On Academic Research and Writing

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams, in *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.
- Bradley, James E. & Richard A. Muller, *Church history: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Burns, Robert B., *Introduction to Research Methods*, Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2000.
- Hart, Chris, *Doing Your Masters Dissertation*, London, Sage, 2005.
- Loder, James E., *The Logic of the Spirit: Human Development in Theological Perspective*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998.
- McIntosh, Lawrence D., *A Style Manual for the Presentation of Papers and Theses in Religion and Theology*, Wagga Wagga, NSW: Centre for Information Studies in association with ANZATLA/ANZATS, 1994.
- Manalo, Emmanuel & Trafford, Julie, *Thinking to Thesis: A guide to graduate success at all levels*, Auckland: Pearson Education, 2004.
- Manen, Max Van, *Researching Lived Experience: Human Science for an Action Sensitive Pedagogy*, (London, Ontario: Althouse Press, Faculty of Education University of Western Ontario, 1990).
- Moschella, Mary Clark, *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice: An Introduction* Pilgrim Press, (2008).
- Osmer, Richard R., *Practical Theology: An Introduction*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Potter, Stephen, *Doing Postgraduate Research*, London, Sage 2006.
- Savage, Carl & William Presnell, *Narrative Research in Ministry: A Postmodern Research Approach for faith Communities*, Louisville, KY: Wayne Oates Institute, 2006.
- Swinton, J. and H. Mowat, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research*, London, SCM Press, 2006.
- Smith, Linda Tuhiwai, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, London & Dunedin: Zed Books and University of Otago Press, 1999.