Course description: This course will incorporate study skills (reading critically, writing book reviews, and working in groups) with skills necessary to write a research paper. This course will be taught in conjunction with the SE/MC Church and Community: Introduction to the Public Ministry of the Church course, both required courses in the Diploma program. Skills gained in the Introduction to Theological Studies course can be used if a student continues with Master level courses upon the successful completion of the Diploma program.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Students will be able to state either verbally or in written form one definition of research and list in writing at least five types of research
1. Library (including primary and secondary sources
2. Internet
3. Direct Observation
4. Interviews
5. Surveys

B. Students will be able to state either in writing or verbally the two kinds of research used in theological studies (literary and social science).

C. Students will write at least one paper in the following categories
1. Spiritual Journey
2. Statement of Faith
3. Exegetical Paper
4. Outline of journal article/book outline
5. Critical book review
6. Rough draft of a term paper project including a bibliography with proper documentation.
   (The final version will be used as a requirement for the Church and Community: Introduction to the Public Ministry of the Church course)
D. Students will be able to state in writing the main types of reference works commonly found in a theological library.

E. Students will be able to find answers to ten theological reference questions utilizing the resources of the library’s reference collection.

F. Students will begin to develop their own personal bibliography (containing at least 10 sources) regarding the public church.

G. Students will be able to improve their basic writing skills

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


B. Mitchell, Rudi. *Biblical Research Tools and Methods*. This is an unpublished 25-page booklet available for $5 from the CUME bookstore


III. RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS


CLASS SESSIONS

January 24, Session One: Saturday, 9am-3:30pm - IS 523 Spiritual Formation Seminar

February 14 – 9:00am-3:00pm -

- Scope, objectives, methods and requirements
- Syllabus
- What is Theological Studies?
- What is Research
- Steps in a Research Paper
  
  **Step One** Find a Topic

  - The Biblical Basis for Public Ministry
  - The Gospel and the Public Ministry of the Church
  - The Public Ministry of Jesus
  - Reconciliation and the Public Ministry of the Church
  - Immigration and the Public Ministry of the Church
  - Justice and the Public Ministry of the Church
  - Racial Reconciliation and the Public Ministry of the Church

  **Step Two** Read a General Article

- In-class assignment – Statement of Faith
- Outlining a book using *How to Think Theologically*
- In class assignment – Spiritual Journey

February 28 – 9:00am-3:00pm *(Class held in CUME Library, 90 Warren St. Boston)*

_Read:_ (Markham and Mitchell, ALL) (Vyhmeister, 1-44; 111-117; 128-152)

- Library Basics – CUME Librarian
- Steps 3-5
- How to Read a Book

March 14 - Read: (Vyhmeister, 66-71; 168-195; 219-251; Scan, 265-279) (Review Markham 75-83)

- Research Steps 6-7
- Book Reviews
- Journal Article Outline and Review

March 28 - Read (Stone, all)) _Read_ (Vyhmeister 99-117) Review (Vyhmeister 11-22, Markham, 85-116)

- Research Steps 8, 9, 10
- Exegetical Paper
- Church and Community Studies

April 11 - Oral Presentations
IV.  ASSIGNMENTS

A. Statement of Faith  Due: February 14, 2015 (typed 2/18)

B. Spiritual Journey  Due: February 14, 2015 (typed 2/18)

C. Book Outlines
   1. *How to Think Theologically*  Due: February 14 (class exercise)
   2. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*  Due: February 28
   3. *Beyond Charity*  Due: March 7
   4. *Faith Works*  Due: March 14
   5. *Beyond Cheap Grace*  Due: April 4

D. Critical Book Review
   1. *Beyond Charity*  Due: March 14
   2. *How to Think Theologically*  Due: March 28
   3. *Faith Works*  Due: March 28

E. Exegetical Paper  Due: April 4

F. Library Exercise (in class)  Due: February 28

G. Research Paper
   1. Topic  Due: February 28
   2. Preliminary Bibliography  Due: March 14
   3. Outline  Due: March 21
   4. Rough Draft  Due: April 4
   5. Final Draft  Due: April 27

H. Take Home Final  Due April 11
V. GRADE COMPUTATION

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<td>Exegetical Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
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<td>Take Home Final</td>
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PAPER POLICY

Late papers are accepted through the next class session of Introduction to Theological Studies. There will be a one letter grade penalty. No papers will be accepted after this deadline.

Papers should be submitted for the course as an attachment (Word document) to the instructor’s email address: awright@gordonconwell.edu. A typed copy of the paper should also be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. All papers will be handed back no later than the next class session.

GRADING SCALE

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VI. ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be on time and not leave early. If you miss more than one class session, you will be dropped from the class.

VII. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

“Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. As such, the seminary has a zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive idea or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Those who violate the seminary’s policy on cheating and plagiarism are subject to one or more of the following penalties: a failing grade on the assignment in question, a failing grade for the course, suspension from the seminary; dismissal from the seminary; or revocation of degree.” Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Boston Campus Supplement to the Student Handbook, 2014.

VIII. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Please turn off cell phones or other electronic devices while in class.
- Personal computers must be used for classroom use only. No checking of e-mail is permitted during class.