**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Boston Campus**
**Introduction to Theological Studies: Research and Writing**

**Instructors:** Rudy Mitchell and Sara Mitchell  
**Term:** Spring 2016  
**Location & Dates:** Boston; Sat. January 23 (9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)  
and Mondays, Jan. 25 – April 25 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

**Course Description:** This course aims to prepare and equip students with life-long learning skills, to enable them to do research relevant to ministry, and to enable them to write and communicate their learning effectively. Students have the opportunity to select, study, and research a topic, question, or issue that is highly relevant to their ministry or concerns. Students will be introduced to important Christian and biblical reference books and resources which can deepen their study of the Bible and advance their ministry. Participants will learn methods of organizing, outlining, and documenting their ideas and research for writing, teaching, and preaching. The course covers how to evaluate world views, evidence, and research sources, and how to use effective reasoning in communication and ministry. Students will learn ways to improve their writing and additional study skills and learning tools that will be helpful in other seminary courses. Participants will learn how case studies, interviews, surveys, and other research approaches can be useful for learning and ministry. Students engage in small group discussions to learn the value of research in planning new ministries, to learn how to study and impact the church’s community, and to consider the factors that affect church growth and vitality.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

*Improving organizing, learning, and thinking skills*
*Discovering and applying practical research approaches to understand urban communities and church ministries or issues*
*Developing the ability to effectively use libraries, reference books, and information sources for Bible study, seminary studies, and ministry.*
*Improving writing skills*

**Required Texts:**

   ISBN number: 978-0-310-51402-2 (See reading report for assigned readings)

   ISBN number: 978-0-226-06566-3 (See reading report for assigned readings) $6- $13

   (No ISBN number) $5.00  (Available at CUME/GCTS Boston)

4. Other required readings will be on reserve at the CUME/GCTS Boston library.