Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Boston Campus  
Center for Urban Ministerial Education

EM/MC 605 Introduction to Theological Studies  
Summer 2012 – Mondays, June 4th through July 30th  
6:30-9:45pm at CUME building 90 Warrant Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Instructor: Cherry R. Gorton  
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REVISED SYLLABUS

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course will provide an Introduction to Theological Studies for the Master of Divinity and  
Master of Arts in Urban Ministry as offered at the Boston Campus CUME and offered through  
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary Hispanic Initiatives Program.

B. Students will discuss Research, why it is needed and how it can be carried out:
   (MDIV 2, 4, 6, 7; MAUM 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)
   1. through traditional libraries,
   2. the Internet,
   3. direct observation,
   4. interviews and surveys
   5. other unique sources of information for theology and biblical studies.
      a. Primary sources
      b. Secondary sources
A. Students will experience and practice various ways of reporting the results of research:
   (MDIV 4, 6, 7, 8; MAUM 5, 6)
   1. position papers,
   2. critical book analysis,
   3. case studies,
   4. personal essays and letters,
   5. informational essays in test taking,
   6. bibliographies and documentation of resources.
B. Students will be introduced to the basic resources needed to develop a theological library  
   for their home or their church.
   (MDIV 2, 4, 5; MAUM 1, 2, 3)
   1. Students will perform a Word study from the Old and New Testament.
   2. Students will be introduced to the steps in writing an In-depth paper of a Bible  
      passage and an Exegesis paper of a Bible passage.
C. Students will learn and be able to demonstrate the Seven Qualities of Good Writing:
   (MDIV 3, 4, 8; MAUM 6)
   1. Has a purpose,
   2. Is aimed at an audience,
   3. Uses a consistent tone of voice
4. Demonstrates the author’s authority
5. Is clearly organized and follows a pattern
6. Has an effective format
7. Is free of mechanical errors

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS and READING ASSIGNMENTS

   Before Class: Chapters 1, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18

   Before Class: Read the entire book so that you are familiar with how it is organized but concentrate on Chapters 1 and 3.

   You will be required to write a critical analysis of this book.

   Bring the book to class, but no need to read ahead of class. Some sections will be read after the class sessions as you are writing your assignments.

   Bring the booklet to class. No reading before class. This is purely a reference book.

ALL BOOKS ON THIS LIST ARE ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY, BUT MUST BE READ IN THE LIBRARY. THEY ARE NON-CHECKOUT. Many of the books listed will have a 7 day check out copy. You may check out one 7 day book with no renewal.

III. FINAL ASSIGNMENTS

1. Students will choose an issue facing the modern church, or more specifically their church, parachurch or marketplace congregation and create a research question. They will submit a bibliography of at least ten sources to investigate their research question. They will then include an outline of their research findings. Finally they will submit a 3 to 5 page paper to answer their research question and state their position on the issue. The paper will need to be double spaced, typed, with one inch margins and 12 point font. Proper footnotes must be used. First Draft due July 30th. Final Draft due August 11th.

2. Students will also need to submit a critical analysis of How to Think Theologically, book #3 in the Required Textbook section. Due July 2nd
3. Finally students will need to write a pastoral letter to a congregation or a Sunday School class, or to the extended family for a special occasion: Easter, Christmas, Wedding, Funeral, Baptism or other occasions approved by the instructor. These can be mailed or emailed along with the research paper. **Due August 6th**

Submission of assignments:
Completed assignments may be submitted electronically to cgorton@gcts.edu or hard copy may be mailed to Cherry R. Gorton, Center for Urban Ministerial Education, 90 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA.

**CLASS SESSIONS**

**Session One: June 4th**
Introductions: students, instructor, course, go over syllabus
The Word of God: words in denotation and connotation,
Diction: choice of words
The Bible: original documents and versions, translations
Parallel Translation Exercise (Carol Kaminski’s sample)
*Biblical Research Tools and Methods*: by Rudy Mitchell
Tour of Bruce Jackson Memorial Library
Call numbers and the Library of Congress System

**Session Two: June 11th**
Key Word Study Bible
Englishman’s Concordance to the OT and NT
Do a Word Study
Scripture citation: handout
Use of Scripture to support arguments: handout
SBL style of citation
Online Bible Resources

**Session Three: June 18th**
TACKLE
View and discuss the DVD *Michaelangelo Revealed*
  - What was the nature of the problem to be researched?
  - What resources were used to study the problem and prepare a thesis?
  - What conclusion did the historian come to about the problem?
  - How did he develop his argument to support his conclusion?

What is Research? handout
Why do Research? Handout
Framing a good research question:
Examples:
  - Church issue: Can the church hang a picture in the narthex titled, *Smallman’s Head of Christ*?
  - Scripture issue: How does Paul compare the Christian Life to athletic events?
Social issue: What should Christians do about anger?
Resources available to research the answer to the question: small groups will brainstorm lists
Developing your research strategy

**Session Four June 25**
Biblical passages on importance of Research and Writing in Biblical Studies
Library Home Page at GCTS.edu
- Online Catalogue: Book resources
- Parts of a book: Example: *The Shroud of Tourin: an Adventure of Discovery* by Mary
  and Alan Whanger. Franklin, TN: Providence House Publishers
  Writing a Critical Analysis of the book, How to Think Theologically, *(Due July 2nd)*
Bibliographic Information
- Notetaking: color coded tabs, highlight, pencil
- Primary and Secondary Resources
- Interviews and Surveys
- Internet Resources and bibliographic information
- Footnotes and documentation of resources
- Plagiarism

**Session Five July 2nd**
Critical Analysis of the book is due today
- Thesis Statement: go back to examples of questions
- Outlining: go back to examples of questions
- Principles of Outlining: passage in Matthew 3: 13-17
- Go over **Assignment to write a position paper from research**

**Session Six July 9th**
Seven Qualities of Good Writing: Go over each quality
- Brainstorm purposes for writing
- Prepare a Writing Sample to be submitted before you retire for the night
- Individual meetings to go over research questions and resources for the position paper

**Session Seven July 16th**
- Words in context: sentence structures
  - Create a Trinitarian statement of faith step by step
  - Nouns and Adjective modifiers, Verbs and Adverb modifiers
  - 1 Timothy 3:16 notice colorful verbs
  - Prepositional phrases: encyridian handout
  - Clauses as modifiers
- Paragraph structures:
  - Puzzle exercise from writings of J.I. Packer and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Punctuation: Panda eats shoots and leaves Handout

**Session Eight July 23rd**
Case Studies
Writing Personal Essays: Handout from Dr. Teague

Go over final assignment to write a personal essay due August 6th

Closing reading: A Dark and Cold World inspired by Philippians

Session Nine July 30th

DVD Slavery by Another Name

Charge to the church and to all Christians in archiving documents, researching an issue, journal writing

First Draft of Research Paper Due today; corrections returned by August 6th, Final draft due August 11th