I. Course Description

The Master of Theology Research Seminar is designed to instruct students in the area of research skills applying to the area of Christian Thought that includes such disciplines as church history, the history of doctrine, systematic and philosophical theology and missions. The course will consist of lectures, reading, writing, discussion and projects that will equip students for scholarly research and writing. CH/TH 901 is for Th.M. students only.

II. Course Relation to the Curriculum

The Master of Theology Research Seminar is required for the Master of Theology degree. The course serves as the foundational introductory course for all Master of Theology students.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should: (1) Have a developing sense of the most appropriate method for research in one’s chosen field. (2) Have considered the matter of the canons of argumentation including the use of evidence and the place of warrants and justifications. (3) Have completed a few short writing assignments designed to stimulate and hone the student’s writing and argumentation skills.

IV. Course Readings


Recommended:


The Paul Page – [www.thepaulpage.com](http://www.thepaulpage.com)

V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. **Attend** lectures.
2. **Read** required texts.
3. **Complete** the research exercises assigned in class. These exercises will include an ATLA search, and other assigned library exercises.
4. **Submit** five response papers (Gathercole, Iwand, Husbands and Treier, Wright, and Bayer). The response papers will be at least 4 but no more than 5 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point Times or New Times Roman; no separate page for title or bibliography). These response papers will be discussed in class.
5. Grading standards as outlined in the catalogue obtain. The percentages are as follows, 15% library exercises, 10% class participation, and 75% response papers.

VI. Course Outline (Subject to Change)
September 17  Introduction to the Course and to the Th.M. program and its paperwork. Gathercole, “What Did Paul Really Mean?”


October 1  Preparing to Draft. Drafting and Revising. Turabian 62-132 Early Church approaches for Justification. Response Paper One (Gathercole)

8  Source Citation and Style  Turabian 133-408. Reformation approaches to Justification.

READING WEEK  October 11-15

22  Luther’s Galatians Commentary and Justification sola fide Response Paper Two (Iwand) Discussion.

29  John Piper and N.T. Wright on Justification


READING WEEK  November 8-12


December 3  Justification: the article by which the Church stands or falls. Discussion.

10  Living by Faith: Justification and Sanctification. Response Paper Five (Bayer)