EM/MC 605  Research and Writing in Urban Theological Studies
October 2011 Consortium in Texas

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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 through Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary Hispanic Initiatives Program and provided at the Boston Campus CUME.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

   **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.

5. A non-fiction book about any religious or theological topic of interest to the student. The students will write a critical analysis of this book after that lesson has been presented.
   **May read before or after class.**

III. FINAL ASSIGNMENTS Due November 20, 2011

1. Students will choose a research question and 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. The paper will need to be double spaced, typed, with one inch margins and 12 point font. Proper footnotes must be used.
2. Students will also need to submit a critical analysis of a book.
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.

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