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.

III. FINAL ASSIGNMENTS

Due March 1, 2012

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 from their research bibliography for the research paper.

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@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: Thursday AM
Biblical passages on importance of Research and Writing in Biblical Studies
The Bible: original documents and versions, translations
*Biblical Research Tools and Methods* by Rudy Mitchell
TACKLE
Do a Word Study
Parallel Translation Exercise

Session Two: Thursday PM
Key Word Study Bible
Englishman’s Concordance to the OT and NT
Scripture citation: handout
Use of Scripture to support arguments: handout
SBL style of citation
Principles of Outlining: passage in Matthew 3: 13-17
Online Bible Resources

Session Three: Friday AM
What is Research? handout
Why do Research? Handout
   Framing a good research question:
   Examples:
       Church issue: Can the church hang a picture 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 and post them
Library Home Page at GCTS.edu
   Online Catalogue: Book resources
   Parts of a book
   Writing a Critical Analysis of a book: *describe the first assignment*
   Bibliographic information
   Call numbers and the Library of Congress System
   Notetaking: color coded tabs, highlight, pencil

Session Four Friday PM
Library Home Page at GCTS.edu
   Online Databases
   Bibliographic information on periodicals and journals
Primary and Secondary Resources
Interviews and Surveys
Internet Resources and bibliographic information
Footnotes and documentation of resources
Plagarism
Session Five Saturday AM
Thesis Statement: go back to examples of questions
Outlining: go back to examples of questions
Writing Sample in class before lunch:
  * What elements go together to create an effective Sermon?
  * Thesis statement listing the elements
  * Write a paragraph about each element
  * Summary statement to end

Session Six Saturday PM
DVD *Michaelangelo Revealed* from PBS
  * Discuss how the program shows the entire research process
Go over Assignment to write a position paper from research
Seven Qualities of Good Writing: Go over each quality
  * Brainstorm purposes for writing
  * Words in context: sentence structures
    * Create a Trinitarian statement of faith step by step
    * Nouns and Adjective modifiers, Verbs and Adverb modifiers
    * Prepositional phrases: encyridian handout
    * Clauses as modifiers

Session Seven Sunday AM
1 Timothy 3:16 notice colorful verbs
Paragraph structures:
  * Puzzle exercise from writings of J.I. Packer and Martin Luther King, Jr.
Punctuation: Panda eats shoots and leaves Handout
Writing Personal Essays: Handout from Dr. Teague
  * Go over final assignment to write a personal essay
Closing reading: *A Dark and Cold World* inspired by Philippians