

<b>Course title:</b> Research Seminar	<b>Credit number:</b> 4
<b>Type of lessons:</b> lecture/seminar format	
<b>Number of lectures/seminars:</b> 1+1 (=2) hours per week	
<b>Type of evaluation:</b> academic paper	
<b>Place in curriculum:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> / spring term	
<b>Course prerequisites:</b> none	
<b>Course description:</b>	
<p><b>Course content:</b>  During the semester the course instructor and perhaps some of the faculty will join the seminar for the first hour (45 minutes) to talk about various aspects of the research process (e.g., working with organizations to obtain data, running experiments, developing a research program, etc.). Following the faculty conversations and introduction to research methodology, students will share and discuss their emerging dissertation research ideas with one another. Any research topic is welcome but it must be agreed by the course instructor at the beginning of the course. A student will present his or her research topic for approximately 20 minutes each occasion following the faculty conversation.</p>	
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b>  The purpose of the Research Seminar is to facilitate the development of incoming Erasmus, DRHE and international students' research ideas and to build community among students and faculty who will mutually support each other. Students will be introduced how to write a quality research paper in English and learn the necessary skills. Furthermore, this course is designed to help the students to do the following: (a) examine the fundamentals of research methodology, (b) become acquainted with the basic resource tools and materials for doing theological research, (c) examine theoretical approaches to theological method, (d) study the basic categories, vocabulary and themes of Christian theological study, (e) examine how skillful written expression is connected with the technique of research, (f) examine the style and form of an acceptable written thesis and (g) develop a personal resume.</p>	
<b>Required and optional reading</b>	
(The 3-5 most important required and optional pieces):	
<p><b>Required reading:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yaghjian, L., <i>Writing Theology Well: a Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers</i>. New York: Continuum, 2006.</li> <li>2. Turabian, Kate L. <i>A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.</li> <li>3. Ellison, C., <i>McGraw-Hill's Concise Guide to Writing Research Papers</i>. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.</li> <li>4. Lewis, C. S. <i>The Great Divorce</i>. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2001.</li> <li>5. Thorpe, R. S., ed. <i>Good Writings: An Anthology of Excellent English With Notes, 4th ed.</i> XanEdu, 2013.</li> <li>6. Truss, L. <i>Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation</i>. Penguin Group (USA) Incorporated, 2009.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Optional reading:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lester, J. D. and J. D. Lester Jr. <i>Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide</i>. New York: Longman, 2010. (13th edition)</li> </ol>	

2. Strunk, William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Macmillan, 1979.
3. Thorpe, R. S. *A Handbook for Basic Biblical Exegesis*. Boston, MA: UP of America, 1998.
4. Vyhmeister, N. J. *Quality Research Papers: For Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008 (2nd edition).

**Course syllabus:**

**WEEK TOPIC**

- 1** Course Introduction (Students are required to begin to contemplate on what research topic they would like to write their seminar paper).
- 2** The Skill of Writing
- 3** Common Writing Problems (Students are supposed to send a title and 10-15 sentences summarising of the aim, approach and method of their research topic).
- 4** Logic
- 5** Critical Thinking
- 6** Problem Solving/Creative Thinking
- 7** Writing a Book Review
- 8** Library Tutorials/The Great Divorce  
From this time onwards students shall be presenting their research papers which they are supposed to submit via email to [abraham.kovacs@ptsem.edu](mailto:abraham.kovacs@ptsem.edu) one hour before the class commences. Students are also required to bring along an extra copy of their paper for the course instructor at the beginning of the class.
- 9** Steps to Producing Research Paper/Research
- 10** Steps to Producing a Research Paper/Thesis Statement/Bibliographies
- 11** Steps to Producing a Research Paper/Notes and Outlines
- 12** Steps to Producing a Research Paper/Rough Draft
- 13** Steps to Producing a Research Paper/Rewrite/Polish/Final Copy

**Course instructor in charge:** Dr. habil. Ábrahám Kovács, university associate professor

**Additional course instructor(s):** –