

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary
TS 601/602 MTS Colloquium: Fall 2023
DRAFT

Professor: Julie Ann Duncan – Pfeiffer 332

Time: Wednesday 2-4 pm Online – synchronous meetings

Course Description

The primary purpose of the course is to aid MTS students in developing and writing the thesis. The Colloquium will also provide a space where fellow MTS students can find support and feedback, and form their own kind of academic community. Second year students will be expected to present and defend their thesis proposals within the course of the colloquium. The course will also offer tutorials with respect to various aspects of the thesis research and writing process, as well as guidance on the process of applying to the PhD programs (finding a good doctoral program for one's area of interest, developing a strong application, etc.). Students with other vocational aspirations will also support one another in discerning their preparations.

Course Goals

Students in this course will:

- Receive preparation for researching and writing the MTS thesis
- Obtain guidance in building a strong course schedule for their proposed area of study
- Obtain direction on the process of applying to doctoral programs.
- Begin to build an academic community with their fellow MTS students
- Engage in peer feedback

Course Requirements

- In order to obtain 2nd-year/advanced standing credit (3credits) students must present their thesis proposal within this term. **Note: those presenting must arrange to have their thesis advisor present for that hour (please see to this as soon as we have set provisional dates). Presentations should include a presentation portion (25-30 minutes), and a discussion portion of 30-35 minutes.
- The thesis proposal will be posted **four** days in advance of class session (Saturday by 8pm).
- Students are expected to read the proposal and be ready to offer constructive feedback.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

- Navigate relevant databases, formulate search terms, and do research in a digital environment
- Develop a short bibliography of essential reading that moves research interests forward
- Assemble a portfolio for application to a doctoral program
- Second-year students will be able to construct and defend a thesis proposal within their discipline.

Additionally students will gain experience in:

- The steps entailed in developing a thesis statement or argument
- Conversing across disciplines
- Peer review of fellow student proposals

Resource Texts (not required): ¹

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 4th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016. \$7.99 on Amazon.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. \$8.99 on Amazon

Yaghjian, Lucretia. *Writing Theology Well: A Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers*. 2nd ed. London: T&T Clark, 2015.

¹ See addendum at end of syllabus for links to key portions of these resources.

Course Schedule

This schedule is **provisional** until we have confirmed dates with outside presenters, and until 2nd year/advanced standing students have chosen their dates and confirmed with their advisors. Please do not plan conflicts against our weekly meeting time until we have established the schedule of presentations.

Sept 6

Introductions
Orientation to MTS colloquium
Projection of presentation schedule
Preparation for library orientation

Sept 13

Orientation to Library Resources – Daniel Smith

Students: We have been intentional about planning this session for your needs. We also invite you to submit requests for what would be helpful to you and your work. It is okay if your question is specific and particular to your research! It may have more relevance for others than you realize.

Sept 20

Writing a Thesis (Ms. Krista McNeil and J. Duncan)
Including:
More Tips on Research Methods
Guidance on Process
Writing a Thesis Proposal –(Review Handout and Rubrics)

Sept 27

For first year and advanced standing students:
Planning your course program
Planning your thesis credits
The scope of a thesis

Oct 4 Research Day

Short assignment: Identify three to four *key* resources that will move you forward with your thesis idea or current interest (books, monographs, articles, essays, etc.).² Describe briefly (a paragraph for each) why they are important for you. Remember: Your research librarians are here to help, as are your thesis advisors.

- *See course site for examples from previous years.*

Oct 11 Discussion of short assignments

Oct 18 Individual Advising sessions

Oct 25 Forging a Strong PhD Application
Including such components as:
Writing a Research Statement
Finding the right graduate program for you
Obtaining Strong Letters of Reference
Preparing an Academic Resume for a Graduate School Application

Nov 1 Question and Answer Session with MTS graduates

Nov 8 Question and Answer Session with Garrett faculty panel

Nov 15 Student presentations

² If you have not yet settled on a thesis topic this is your chance to explore something in your discipline that intrigues you.

Nov 22 **Thanksgiving Recess**

Nov 29 Student Presentations

Dec 6 Student Presentations

Dec 13 Student Presentations

Important dates to keep in mind for Fall 2023:

Look for important dates here. They will be posted once we receive the Academic Calendar for next year.

Important dates to keep in mind for Spring 2023:

Look for important Spring deadlines here. They will be posted once we receive the Academic calendar.

Appendix A Resources for style and citation of sources

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html>

This is a handy quick reference guide to how to cite sources. This is not a bibliography manager; it will not formulate your citation for you. Rather, you can find examples for what you want to do here.

<https://courses.garrett.edu/course/view.php?id=1137>

This is the Writing Center's Moodle page. Here you will find several resources for style and citation, as well as other writing helps! It is brimming with helpful information.