

RT615 RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE: RT615 Research Methods (Blended)
CREDIT: 3 Semester Hours
SEMESTER: Fall 2021 (Cycle 3)
DATES: October 27–December 15
TIME: Wednesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: CABRE 100 and Online Classroom
PROFESSOR: Dr. Michel Dodds. (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu,
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

A research methods course which presents a unique approach comprising choosing and narrowing a topic, searching the literature and evaluating the sources, working with Scripture, organizing findings, writing well, documenting properly, preparing to publish, and working with editors and publishers.

**This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the nature and purpose of graduate research in biblical studies (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5; A 1–8, 10).
2. Develop a sound methodology for graduate-level research in biblical studies (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5; A 1–8, 10).
3. Think and interact critically with primary and secondary sources (PLO 2, 3, 4, 5; A 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10).
4. Grow in familiarity with scholarly resources (journals, dissertations, monograph series, reference works, exegetical commentaries, etc.) in the different disciplines of biblical studies (PLO 4, 5; A 1, 2, 3, 9, 10).
5. Learn correct thesis format and style according to the standard set by the seminary (PLO 5; A 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10).
6. Improve the use of research resources in the Hilda Kroeker Library and other libraries (PLO 5; A 2, 3).
7. Improve writing skills (PLO 5; A 4, 5, 6, 7).

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Bible. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), King James (KJV), or The American Standard Version (ASV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Feinberg, John S., ed. *Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1988. ISBN 10: 0891074687. Cost: \$26.07 Amazon paperback.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN 10: 0226430577. Cost: \$15.99 Amazon paperback.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1: Complete assigned reading prior to each class session. Each class will begin with a group discussion on the assigned reading for that session (see “Reading” section in Course Schedule chart below). Each student is expected to be able to lead these group discussions by explaining the content of the assigned reading and new insights learned. Each student will be graded on his preparedness and level of engagement with the assigned reading for each class session. (35 points)

Assignment #2: Research Paper Topic. Students will choose and submit a graduate-level research topic of interest in biblical studies. (5 points)

Assignment #3: Initial Bibliography. The initial bibliography should focus on primary sources, peer-reviewed journal articles, dissertations, academic monographs, and *exegetical* commentaries. The total number of pages for research reading must be no less than 350 total pages. Designate at least one item that will be borrowed via inter-library loan from another library. (20 points)

Assignment #4: Detailed Paper Outline and Abstract of Thesis/Argument. Students will submit a detailed outline of their research paper (to the sub-paragraph argument level) and a substantive abstract of their thesis and argument. (15 points)

Assignment #5: First Draft of Leading Body Paragraphs. Leading Body Paragraphs are those that present the main points/arguments of the research paper. (15 points)

Assignment #6: First Complete Draft. This first complete draft must be completed “as if for submission” and will be graded accordingly (20–25 pages double-spaced, not including bibliography). (25 points)

Assignment #7: Revised Draft. Students will submit a revised draft that incorporates all of the instructor’s feedback. (15 points)

Assignment #8: Presentation of Research. Students will prepare and present a 30-minute formal presentation (followed by class discussion) of their research paper. Students are responsible for

scheduling their presentations with the instructor. (15 points)

Assignment #9: Review of *Continuity and Discontinuity*. Students will submit a 3-page (single space) review and critique that focuses on new insights learned and any points of disagreement or perceived weaknesses. (20 points)

Assignment #10: Final Reading Report. At the end of the course, each student will submit a final reading report (signed hardcopy) on all assigned reading and at least 350 pages of research material. Students will annotate either “complete” or total pages read for partial readings. (30 points)

GRADING

Distribution

Class Participation (7 x 5 points): 35 points
Research Paper Topic: 5 points
Initial Bibliography: 20 points
Paper Outline/Abstract: 15 points
First Draft of Body Paragraphs: 15 points
First Complete Draft: 25 points
Revised Draft: 15 points
Presentation of Research: 15 points
Review of *Continuity and Discontinuity*: 20 points
Final Reading Report: 30 points
TOTAL POINTS: 195

Scale

96–100%	A
94–95%	A-
92–93%	B+
88–91%	B
86–87%	B-
84–85%	C+
80–83%	C
78–79%	C-
0–77%	F

NOTICES

All research papers must be submitted in Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th edition and the Calvary University Style Guide, 2019 update.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any information without proper citation, including taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism will result in assignment/course failure and disciplinary action.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Reading	Topics	Assignments Due
10-27	> Turabian: Chapters 1-2. > <i>Continuity and Discontinuity</i> : Chapter 1.	Definition and Planning of Research, Core Issue of Biblical Studies– Hermeneutics	<i>(Only bold with asterisk items have hard deadlines.)</i>
11-3	> Turabian: Chapters 3-4. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 2-3.	Resources for Biblical Studies Research, Theological Systems	Research Paper Topic
11-10	> Turabian: Chapters 5-6. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 4-5.	Constructing an Argument, Preparing a First Draft, Hermeneutics and Testament Priority	Initial Bibliography (350 total pages)
11-17	> Turabian: Chapters 7-8. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 6-7.	Drafting, Presenting Evidence, Salvation	Detailed Paper Outline, Abstract of Thesis/Argument
11-24	> Turabian: Chapters 9-10. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 8-9.	Revising Draft, Introduction and Conclusion, The Law	First Draft of Leading Body Paragraphs
12-1	> Turabian: Chapters 11-12. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 10-11.	Revising Sentences, Feedback, People of God	*First Complete Draft
12-8	> Turabian: Chapter 13. > <i>CD</i> : Chapters 12-13.	Presenting Research, Kingdom Promises	Revised Draft
12-15	Turabian: Chapter 14.	Spirit and Ethics of Research	*Presentation of Research