Syllabus

15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Course: **RT615-E&EN Research Methods**
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2024 (Session 2, Oct 21–Dec 13)
Class Time: 6:00—9:00 pm, Thursdays
Professor: Dr. Michel Dodds, (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

__About This Course__: This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

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

__About Assistance for All Course Assignments__: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University 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.

__About Changes to this Syllabus__: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

This course overviews various research methods to study Bible and theology. Students learn how to find and use the best resources to write biblical and theological research papers following Turabian style. Students are introduced to electronic Bible study software (Logos and/or Accordance). (ILOs- 1, 2, 3)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. General competencies to be achieved: You will be able to . . .

1. Demonstrate understanding of the nature and purpose of graduate research in biblical and theological studies. (PLO- 1; A- 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
2. Develop a sound methodology for graduate-level research in biblical and theological studies. (PLO- 1; A- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview

3. Interact critically with primary and secondary sources. (PLO- 1, 4; A- 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
4. Show familiarity with scholarly resources (journals, dissertations, monograph series, reference works, exegetical commentaries, etc.) in the different disciplines of biblical and theological studies. (PLO- 1; A- 4, 7, 8)

B. **Specific competencies to be achieved**: You will be able to . . .

1. Utilize the research resources in the Hilda Kroeker Library and other libraries. (PLO- 3; A- 3, 4)
2. Demonstrate ability with using Bible study software for doing biblical and theological research. (PLO- 3; A- 2, 4)
3. Demonstrate graduate level academic writing skills. (PLO- 3; A- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
4. Compose a thesis syllabus according to the proper CU guidelines. (PLO- 3; A- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
5. Demonstrate basic knowledge of biblical Greek and Hebrew in order to do scholarly research in Bible and Theology. (PLO- 1; A- 2, 4, 7, 8)

III. MATERIALS

A. **Required Textbooks:**

1. The Bible: NASBU, ESV, or NET.

   -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), or King James (KJV). 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.

2. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0226430577. Cost: $18.00. 464 pages.

B. **Bible Search Software**: Students must obtain access to software programs for doing searches in the biblical languages. The following Bible Study Software programs are highly recommended but are not required for this course, however, other courses at CU may require use of these programs.

1. Logos 9 Academic Essentials ($499)

2. Accordance 13 Academic Bundle Green Level ($400)

IV.   **REQUIREMENTS**

***Note**: Further specific assignment instructions are provided in Canvas in the specific assignment link.

Assignment #1: Turabian Formatting and Writing Style Practice. Each class session will include practice exercises of proper Turabian formatting and Writing style for graduate academic work.

Assignment #2: Bible Languages and Bible Study Software Practice. Each class session will include practice exercises in the biblical languages and Bible study software.

Assignment #3: Research Topic. Students will choose and submit a graduate-level research topic of interest in biblical studies.

Assignment #4: Initial Bibliography. The initial bibliography should focus on primary sources, peer-reviewed journal articles, dissertations, academic monographs, and *exegetical* commentaries. Designate at least one item that will be borrowed via inter-library loan from another library.

Assignment #5: Prose Outline and Abstract of Thesis/Argument. Students will submit a prose outline (note: NOT a detailed syllabus outline) of their research paper (syllabus) and a substantive abstract of their thesis and argument.

Assignment #6: Chapter Leading Body Paragraphs. Leading Body Paragraphs are those that present the main points/arguments of the thesis.

Assignment #7: Complete Syllabus. This syllabus must be completed "as if for submission" (15–20 pages double-spaced, not including bibliography).

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 if not able to present in class to peers.

IV.   **METHODS**

A. Presentation:

1. **In-class methods:** listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, language and research practice, and making presentations.

   ****About Class Attendance**: Research consistently demonstrates that class attendance and active participation correlate to higher performance on course assessments.

*About Classroom Use of Media:

- -**Computing devices** are permitted during the lecture and class discussion sessions for the sole purpose of taking notes. Use of these devices to access the Internet, make telephone calls or video calls, text messaging, updating social network services, etc. is not allowed, let alone very distracting to other students.
- -**Cellphones / smartphones** may only be used in an emergency, and in those situations the student may take the call but must leave the room and not return until the next break out of courtesy to fellow classmates.

***About Note Taking**: Students are expected to take notes during each class Significant peer reviewed studies continue to demonstrate that notes taken by hand are understood better and remembered longer than those taken with a computer. Computer use which is a distraction to others (i.e., noise, blocking the screen, displaying non-class related material, etc.) is not allowed.

2. **Out-of-class methods:** research and writing.

   *About written assignments: Unless directed otherwise, all written assignments must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

B. **Grading:**

*About Late Assignments: All course assignments must be submitted into Canvas by the due date listed in the Class Schedule and Canvas.

*About Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or essay without identifying that source. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own without identifying the source. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a **zero (0) grade**. (**Note**: Turn-It-In.com will be used to verify plagiarism.)

*About course grade: See the grading scale in the University Catalog for the specific grading scale that will be used for final course grade.

1. Possible points for each specific assignment:

   ***Note**: An assignment-specific rubric will be provided for each assignment.

   ```
   #1 – Formatting Practice (5 x 25 points).  .    .    .    = 125 points
   #2 – Language & Software Practice (5 x 25 points).  = 125   "
   #3 – Research Topic..   .    .    .    .    .    .    .    =  25   "
   #4 – Initial Bibliography.   .    .    .    .    .    .    = 100   "
   #5 – Outline/Abstract.   .    .    .    .    .    .    .    = 100   "
   #6 – Body Paragraphs.  .    .    .    .    .    .    .    = 200   "
   #7 – Complete Syllabus..   .    .    .    .    .    .    = 300   "
   #8 – Presentation of Research.  .    .    .    .    .    =  25    "
                          TOTAL POINTS.   .  = 1000   "
   ```

VI.   ABBREVIATED CLASS SCHEDULE

[**Note**: An expanded schedule will be presented during the first class session.]

Week	Reading	Topics	Assignments Due
#1	> Turabian: Ch 1–2; 15–16; 20	Definition and Planning of Research; Alphabets	--
#2	> Turabian: Ch 3–4; 17.1–4; 21 >CU MDiv Manual	Resources for Biblical Studies Research; Words	Research Topic; Formatting #1; Software/Language #1
#3	> Turabian: Ch 5–6; 17.5–9; 22–23	Constructing an Argument; Reading words	Formatting #2; Software/Language #2
#4	> Turabian: Ch 7–8; 17.10–11; 24	Drafting, Presenting Evidence; Verbs	Initial Bibliography; Formatting #3; Software/Language #3
#5	> Turabian: Ch 9–10; 25	Revising Draft, Introduction and Conclusion; Word Studies	Detailed Outline & Abstract; Formatting #4; Software/Language #4
#6	> Turabian: Ch 11–12; 26	Revising Sentences, Ethics of Research; Reading Sentences	Leading Body Paragraphs; Formatting #5; Software/Language #5
#7	[No Class]	Syllabus Work	--
#8	> Turabian: Ch 13 & 14	Presenting Research	Complete Syllabus; Presentation of Research