

Course: ED610 N Introduction to Graduate Studies
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Summer 2026 (Session 1)
Days: May 11th – June 26th
Instructor: Dr. Mary F. Briggs
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I. DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces beginning graduate students to the skills necessary to complete graduate level academic research, writing, and presentation assignments. The course covers search strategies, resource evaluation, note taking, scholarly writing, mechanics of style, APA guidelines, presentation options, and associated technological skills.

II. OBJECTIVES:

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to use search engines to locate relevant scholarly journal articles and books.
 - a. PLO-1, 2, 4
 - b. Assignments: A, B.1
2. Apply APA (7th edition) guidelines when completing assignments.
 - a. PLO-1, 2, 4
 - b. Assignments: A, C.1 – C.10
3. Develop graduate level reading and writing skills.
 - a. PLO-1, 2, 4
 - b. Assignments: A, C.2 – C.10
4. Develop a variety of methods for presenting information.
 - a. PLO-1, 2, 4
 - b. Assignments: A, B.2

III. MATERIALS:

1. The Bible (Please refer to Course Policies.)
2. American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition)
Hardcover: ISBN-13: 978-1433832154 ISBN-10: 1433832151 \$58.99
Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-1433832161 ISBN-10: 143383216X \$34.99
3. Williams, V.K. (2016). *I am not a writer. . .I am just in graduate school: A guide to writing critically, clearly and coherently*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. ISBN-10: 1533392919 \$24.00
4. Additional Reading: You will read additional materials (handouts, journal articles, websites, etc.) that may be assigned by the instructor.

Required reading for international students:

5. Kim, R., Albert. L., & Sihm, H. G. (2014). *Reading, writing, and discussing at the graduate level: A guide for international students*. University Press of America, Inc.
Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0761864127 ISBN-10: 9780761864127 \$37.99

IV. REQUIREMENTS:

- A. **Reading Assignments:** You are expected to read the textbooks and any other articles, handouts, or websites assigned by the professor.
- B. **Activity Assignments**
 1. Locate journal articles and books
 2. Presentations
- C. **Written Assignments**
 1. Class Video Reports
 2. Basic APA template
 3. Annotated bibliographies
 4. Writing exercises
 5. Grammar exercises
 6. Usage exercises
 7. Read-to-Write project
 8. Outline exercise
 9. Quizzes
 10. In-text citations
 11. Reference List
 12. Final Exam

V. METHODS

A. Teaching and Learning

1. Research
2. Reading
3. Writing
4. Presentation
5. Lecture

B. Grading

1. Weight given to assignments:

Assignments:	Points:
Reading assignments	60
Journal articles and books	100
Basic APA template	50
Class Video Reports	70 (10 pts. x 7 reports)
Annotated bibliographies	100 (20 pts. x 5 annotations)
Writing exercises	100
Grammar exercises	50
Usage exercises	50
Read-to-Write project	50
Quizzes	40 (20 pts. x 2 quizzes)
In-text citations	70
Presentations	60 (30 pts. x 2 presentations)
Reference List	100
Final Exam	100
Total:	1000 points

2. Late Assignments

Late assignments may be penalized 10 percent of the grade on that assignment per week.

3. Letter / Numerical Grade Scale

The grading scale listed in the current University Catalog will be used for this course.

VI. POLICIES

A. The Bible as Required Textbook

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.

B. Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources.

AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

Additionally, submission of work for this class must express original thought and should be written in the voice of the student. Research should be conducted using academic, peer-reviewed sources (not blogs or other opinion/editorial sites). However, even when citing sources, students must explain the ideas/concepts presented in their own words. Extensive copying of source material is not permitted, even if the source is cited on the reference page.

C. Academic Activity & Participation

Students learn best when they take an active part in the learning process. Students will be expected to engage in the material presented weekly and be able to summarize the content to meet learning objectives. Punctuality is expected out of professional courtesy and to minimize the disruption of the classroom dynamics.

D. Technology

Using technology to enhance the learning experience is an integral part of this course. However, technology can also cause distraction and inattentiveness. Cell phones should be set to silent and placed on the table or in a backpack/purse. *Working on other assignments during class or using electronic devices for anything other than class activities or taking notes for the course will not be permitted.*

E. Accommodations Statement

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

F. Style Guide

All class papers must follow the APA style guide according to *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th edition.

G. The Clark Academic Center

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for 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.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASS SCHEDULE:

Weeks		Class Topics:	Assignments for the Week:
1	May 11 th - May 17 th	Introduction Search Strategies Basic APA Formatting	<i>Due by Midnight on May 17th</i> 1. Read Chapters 1, 2 & 6 of <u>I AM</u> . 2. Complete Class Video Reports. 3. Locate journal articles and books. 4. Read APA Introduction (xvii–xxii). 5. Prepare basic APA template.
2	May 18 th - May 24 th	Conducting a Review of the Literature Resource Evaluation Plagiarism Notetaking	<i>Due by Midnight on May 24th</i> 1. Read Chapters 3 of <u>I AM</u> . 2. Complete Class Video Reports. 3. Complete annotated bibliographies. 4. Read APA Chapter 2. 5. Read APA Chapter 4.1 – 4.11.
3	May 25 th - May 31 st	APA Chapter 2 Organization of a Paper APA Chapter 4.1 – 4.11 Writing Smoothly & Concisely Presentation Options	<i>Due by Midnight on May 31st</i> 1. Read Chapter 4 of <u>I AM</u> . 2. Complete Class Video Reports. 3. Complete writing exercises. 4. Read APA Chapter 4.12 – 4.30. 5. Prepare Presentation #1.

4	June 1 st – June 7 th	APA Chapters 4.12 – 4.30 Grammar & Usage Strategies to Improve Your Writing	<i>Due by Midnight on June 7th</i> 1. Read Chapter 5 of <u>I AM</u> . 2. Complete Class Video Reports. 3. Complete grammar exercises. 4. Complete usage exercises. 5. Complete Read-to-Write project.
5	June 8 th – June 14 th	APA Chapter 5: Bias-Free Guidelines APA Chapter 6: Mechanics of Style	<i>Due by Midnight on June 14th</i> 1. Complete Class Video Report. 2. Read APA Chapters 5 & 6. 3. Complete Chapter 5 Online Quiz. 4. Complete Chapter 6 Online Quiz. 5. Read APA Chapter 8
6	June 15 th - June 21 st	APA Chapter 8: In-Text Citations Presentation Options	<i>Due by Midnight on June 21st</i> 1. Complete Class Video Report. 2. Complete In-Text Citations. 3. Prepare Presentation #2. 4. Read APA Chapters 9 & 10.
7	June 22 nd June 26 th	APA Chapter 9: Reference List Final Exam	<i>Due by Midnight on June 26th</i> 1. Complete Class Video Reports. 2. Complete Reference List. 3. Complete Final Exam

About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any change 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.