04CE510 Theological Research and Writing

Course description
This course is designed to take the intimidation out of research and writing for seminary studies. Students will develop competency in developing a topic into a focused argument, library research, paper formatting, avoiding plagiarism, and other critical skills for seminary student success. Class sessions will be highly interactive with a workshop feel. Students will be coached in the production of a high quality research paper as a key outcome of the course.

Instructor
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Required reading


Assignments (Total 100 pts.)*

**Online forum participation 20 pts.**
Students will participate in forum discussions on the Canvas course homepage. Full participation at a minimum is a 4 x 4 (four paragraphs of four sentences each) initial posting in answer to forum question and then at least two substantial interactions with peer postings. The required reading will be necessary for satisfactory participation in the discussion forums.

**Research paper drafts 15 pts.**
Students will post drafts of their research projects with increasing depth, detail, and length as the course progresses. See Canvas course homepage for specifics on level of detail and due dates for individual drafts. Research topics will be discovered by the student and refined by the student with his peers and with the instructor.

**Presentation and peer review 15 pts**
Through the course students will present their ongoing and developing research paper in both online and in person environments. They will learn to receive and to give constructive critique. Dates and details for presentations and peer review will be discussed in the Canvas environment.

**Final of research paper 30 pts.**
Students will submit a final version of their 2500 word research paper. Due by midnight EST on December 5, 2016.

**Annotated bibliography 20 pts.**
Students will produce an annotated bibliography of foundational literature for their research. There should be a minimum of 8 sources, all academic. Students will include a page count total for reading for this assignment that should equal at least 300 pages, but preferably more. The format and approach for this assignment will be covered in class. Bibliography will be due by midnight EST on October 18, 2016.

*Syllabus due dates and assignments subject to in progress revision and negotiated changes.

**Schedule**
This course will meet on Tuesdays from 4:15 pm until 5:45 pm beginning on August 23rd 2016 and concluding on November 15th 2016. In addition to the classroom environment, students will be required to participate in a robust online learning community in Canvas. Activities, forums, resources, and assignments will be posted on the Canvas course homepage and organized by weeks no later than August 1, 2016.