

**MN 564: Theological and Biblical Research Methods**  
**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary**

Computer Literacy Center, Room L106  
Charles C. Myers Library

*Instructor* Mary Anne Knefel Office: Charles C. Myers Library 201

Phone: 563-589-3215

Email: mknefel@dbq.edu

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00- 5:00

*Overview/Course Description*

Students learn research techniques that will help them succeed in Seminary. We use print and electronic research tools to identify reference works, books, and periodical articles. We create two bibliographies in University of Chicago format, the style used in Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. We also discuss how to read scholarly books and articles for research.

*Student Learning Objectives*

In this class, students will learn to:

1. Formulate a research strategy, including a realistic timeline needed to acquire information
2. Retrieve information from key databases, including the UD/WTS catalog and *ATLA Religion Database*
3. Examine and compare information from various sources to evaluate its reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view
4. Acknowledge use of information sources using University of Chicago (Turabian) format
5. Read scholarly materials effectively.

*Performance Expectations*

1. Attend all class sessions and other required activities.
2. Meet all deadlines.
3. Prepare adequately for each class session using appropriate study strategies.

*M.Div. Curricular Goals*

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study and reflection that shape (students') personal and professional lives.
2. Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight...
3. Educate and equip individuals...to live and minister joyfully and faithfully.

*Prerequisites:* None

*Required text:* Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers: For Students of Religion and Theology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

*Technology Requirement*

Students are required to use their University network account to access databases both on- and off-campus. They must submit all work in Microsoft Word. University of Dubuque Acceptable Use Policy: Please see

<http://www.dbq.edu/media/campuslife/officeoftechnology/AcceptableUse.pdf> regarding the acceptable use of the network and all computer systems at the University. 2

## *Assessment*

### 1. Course Requirements

Students compile two short bibliographies in Turabian (University of Chicago) format, examine books, reference works, and periodical articles. They write an annotation on a book chapter or article which identifies key elements in the text, such as the thesis and supporting evidence, intended audience, reliability, and point of view and then write an.

#### Grading Scale

This class may be taken either Pass/Fail or for a grade. Each assignment will be graded on a scale from A to F.

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: Below 59%

### 2. Assessment Strategy

Assessment is based on homework, assignments and class discussion as follows

Reading for Research worksheets 40%

Bibliography 40%

Text Analysis Assignment 10%

Completion of homework on time and class participation 10%

#### *Course Administrative Information: House Rules*

1. Independent vs. teamwork policy: Your projects are uniquely yours, but will become stronger through class discussion.

2. Cheating/plagiarism: All of your work should always be your own. Please see page 103 of the Student Handbook (<http://www.dbq.edu/campuslife/vicepresidentofstudentlife/PDF/UDStudentHandbook.pdf>) for the Seminary's plagiarism policy.

3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: A student who has a disability that might affect his or her performance in this course should consult with the instructor and Megan Ruiz, Disability Services Coordinator (563-589-3757), in confidence, by the second class session.

4. Inclusive language policy: Please see page 113 of the Student Handbook for the full statement on inclusive language.

5. Subject to Change Clause: This syllabus, course calendar and other attending documents are subject to change during the semester (or intensive).