

A Golden Opportunity

Dear Students,

I pray the 2020 – 2021 academic year was a good and productive one for you, despite the global crisis we continued to face. With faith, you have made it to the end of the semester. Dr. Cano has given me permission to write a few words to invite you to think seriously about enrolling for the *Introduction to Research & Writing in the Theological Studies* course to be given in July 2021. The course will run on Saturday during the month of July on *July 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2021*.

Everyone can benefit from the course, but if you have struggled with your writing during your study at the Seminary, this is a golden opportunity for you to work on problem areas and to build stronger research and writing skills. Since the class runs only four weeks, it is an intensive course. Every effort will be made to meet your individual needs.

My goal as instructor is to seek to address the unique writing concerns of each student. For some students, it may be a matter of reviewing strategies for getting started and knowing a systematic way to develop ideas for optimal results. For others, it may be an opportunity to explore research strategies and the basics, and for still others, it may be a matter of simply exploring voice in writing and seeking better ways of addressing research writing assignments.

The course, offered exclusively online through Zoom, moves from a review of the basics to more challenging assignments of research integration in developing a piece of writing. Digital research, citing and documenting sources and bibliography building are important components of our study. The entire writing approach is viewed as process rather than product. To this end, an exploration of revision strategies will be at the core of our work.

Indeed, this is a golden opportunity. **You have many rich ideas and have much to write about. The course will help you to make your expression of these in writing a joy.** I pray you will take advantage of the course. May you continue to have success at the Seminary and in your professional and personal lives.

Yours in Christ,
Esther M. Owens

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH & WRITING IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES: A SUMMER INTENSIVE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF COURSE

Introduction to Research & Writing in Theological Studies is a summer intensive course that provides concentrated research and writing competence in the fundamentals of academic writing. An important component of the course, therefore, is an exploration of theological research resources available to NYTS students. These resources will form the core of the course and will be used as assignments are planned and developed.

The main emphasis in the course is to give students practice in organizing ideas into coherently structured and effective essays. Students will learn problem-solving and critical thinking strategies, all of which are key skills for religious leadership in today's world. (8 sessions)

Required Texts:

- ***The Seminary Student Writes* by Deborah Core (Des Peres, MO: Chalice Press, 2000) ISBN# 0-8272-337-3**

- ***From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research* by Michael Kibbe (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarity Press, 2016) ISBN# 978-0-8308-51317**

- ***Access: Unlocking the Power of Research - a Guide to Library Services and Information Literacy* by Jerry Reising (2018) ISBN# 1724925881**