

TASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Evangel University

THE 646 Theological Studies Seminar (3 credits)

Friday, 11:00 AM –12:45 PM

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Spring 2017
AGTS 104
T-TH 10-11:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Each student in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program must enroll in this graduate seminar course before completion of the degree. The preparation of a major seminar paper affords students an opportunity to demonstrate competencies within their chosen concentration through research, interpretation, and writing.

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

After completing this course the student should be able to:

1. **Engage in research and writing** in their chosen area of theological studies at requisite skill levels with regard to *vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, grammar, composition, style*, etc., and with requisite *academic form and style for biblical and theological studies*;
2. **Interact with the scholarship** (both historical and contemporary) in his/her chosen field in a critical and reflective manner, assessing strengths and weakness and identifying operating presuppositions in both theological and hermeneutical method, and synthesizing appropriate implications for contemporary life, ministry and leadership;
3. **Serve the Church more effectively** through theological research and written reflection;
4. **Live a more intentional and authentic Christ-like life** as his disciple in view of one's academic work. This should include incorporating into one's life the universal principles taught in the Scriptures for living as God's holy people, manifesting His holy

love, in a holistic approach, including responsible stewardship of God’s world, and working for justice and the flourishing of all in society, and then teaching others how to do the same and how to determine God’s principles and apply them.

MATS PLOs	EU 20	ON (FWE)
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	C3, E2, 4	1, 5, 6

TEXTBOOKS

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2013. (All papers are to follow the “notes-bibliography” method of documentation described in chapters 16 and 17, employing footnotes). ISBN 978-0226816388.

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers for Students in Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN 978-0310514022.

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student must read the *MATS Program Manual*, posted on the Student Portal and Commons for this class and note the following:
 - The “MATS Grading Rubric for Theological Studies Seminar Paper” and the “MATS Portfolio requirements and Rubric for Grading” will help you to know how the content and writing is evaluated.
 - The “MATS Goals and Assessment of Student Learning” will help you be aware of your degree program Learning Outcomes.
 (The more outcomes you can demonstrate that you have met in this capstone project (as appropriate to your topic), the better your grade will be.)
2. Each student is accountable for familiarity with what *Quality Research Papers* by Vyhmeister, the progress through their research and development of their seminar paper. Students need to immediately familiarize themselves with the content of Kate Turabian’s *Manual for Writers*, as they will need to use and cite it extensively in their peer evaluations.
3. The chief goal of this course is the successful completion of a seminar paper in a chosen area of study based on the examination and interpretation of primary and secondary sources. The paper must be 25-30 pages double-spaced, bibliography and appendices. If footnotes are used (which is preferred and recommended), the length of the paper should be 30-35 pages excluding bibliography and appendices. The final paper is due April 20, 2018.

(The best MATS Theological Studies Seminar paper each year receives the Stanley Horton Award and is published in AGTS’ online journal, *Encounter: Journal for Pentecostal Ministry* (<http://www.agts.edu/encounter/index.htm>).

It is recommended to look at the last several years' winning papers as models of content, research, and organizational development. (Since they have been formatted for publication as a journal article, however, they are no longer strictly in Turabian format.)

COURSE METHODOLOGY

There will be a limited number of lectures. The course will consist of dialogue relative to the research and writing of seminar papers, individual research and writing, private consultation with the professor and peer review and critique.

The professor will use both the Portal and Course Commons to provide the course handouts and other documents.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. January 12-Feb 2

Class meetings will focus on the following items: Explanation of the syllabus and course expectations; topic selection; preparation of the proposal/project description; research methodology; and highlighting important sections of the two required texts.

Jan. 26 At the beginning of class each student will submit the topic for the seminar paper, a list and brief description of the issues to be addressed. The topics will be discussed on that day. The professor will respond to each student *in writing*, and grant approval to begin further work on the paper.

Feb. 2 Each student will submit a preliminary proposal/project description for their paper *and* a working bibliography. The professor will immediately begin to read them and respond *in writing* before Feb. 12, OR ask you to make an appointment to see him in his office for consultation. Assignments of Format-Style and Content Critics for each of the papers will be agreed upon.

February 2-March 16 *No formal class meetings.* Each student is expected to work independently on his/her paper. The professor will be available office appointments to help with questions. Each student must email the professor of their progress on February 23.

NOTE: It is important to look through Quality Research Papers and read the parts that you need for doing this work most effectively BEFORE preparing your first draft.

March 20- (by 4:30 p.m.) The first draft of the seminar paper is due. Please give it to the Faculty Secretary who will put it in my mailbox.

March 23- Class meetings resume.

March 23-April 6 The first drafts of the seminar papers will be critiqued by Format-Style and Content Critics and the professor. During these sessions you will be asked questions and given suggestions by your peers and the professor. ***Come with a learner's attitude.*** You are not being asked to defend your paper, but to enter into dialogue with your colleagues about your work with the intent to improve the final product.

Immediately after the review and evaluation of your First Draft, begin preparing the Final Draft. Formal class meetings will end when each First Draft has been critiqued.

April 20- Final Draft due

The student will turn in his/her Final Draft by 4:30 p.m. The professor will begin to work through the Final Drafts immediately and you will be notified via campus mail if there is need for further revision.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: (1) Failure to meet the due dates for the presentation of the Topic, the Proposal, and the First Draft will reduce the grade for the course by one movement within a letter grade scale (e.g., A to an A-) for each calendar day late. (2) Failure to be prepared on the assigned day to participate in the class as a Format-Style and/or Content Critic will reduce the grade for that assignment by two movements within a letter grade (e.g., A to a B+). (3) Failure to submit the Final Draft of the seminar paper on the due date will reduce the course grade by one movement within a letter grade for each day late.

The grade of Incomplete (I) will be granted *only for extenuating circumstances* upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://www.agts.edu/academics/forms.html>. The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days. Except in the case of *extraordinary* extenuating circumstances, the granting of the grade of (I) will mean that the course grade, assigned when the work is completed, will be reduced by one letter grade.

COURSE GRADING

Grade Weights:

General class participation	5%
Format –style critique	10%
Content critique	10%
Seminar Paper.....	75%

DUE DATE

The due date is April 20, 2017 by 5:00 PM CST. Any exception to that date must be negotiated with the professor well in advance of that date and, except in the case of extreme circumstances, will involve a grade reduction penalty.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Paul W. Lewis, May 10, 2017 (with assistance by Roger Cotton, Debbie Gill, and James H. Railey, Jr.)

ACADEMIC POLICY ADDENDUM

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may be used only for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at <https://www.evangel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Student-Handbook-2017-18.pdf>

While AGTS does not endorse the following websites, they provide more information on non-discriminatory language:

General Principles: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

Gender: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/gender.html>

Racial and Ethnic Identity: <http://www.apastyle.org/race.html>

Disabilities: <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>

Age Discrimination: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

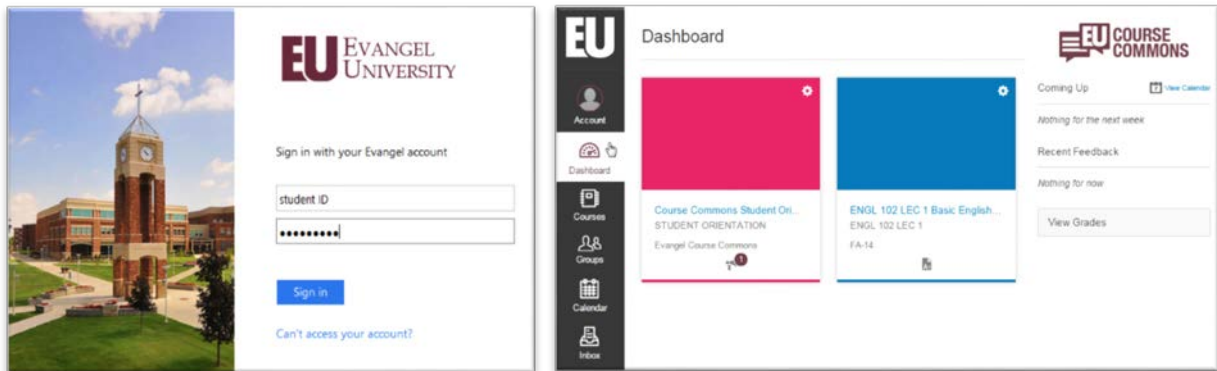
DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University, is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with the professor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

COURSE COMMONS

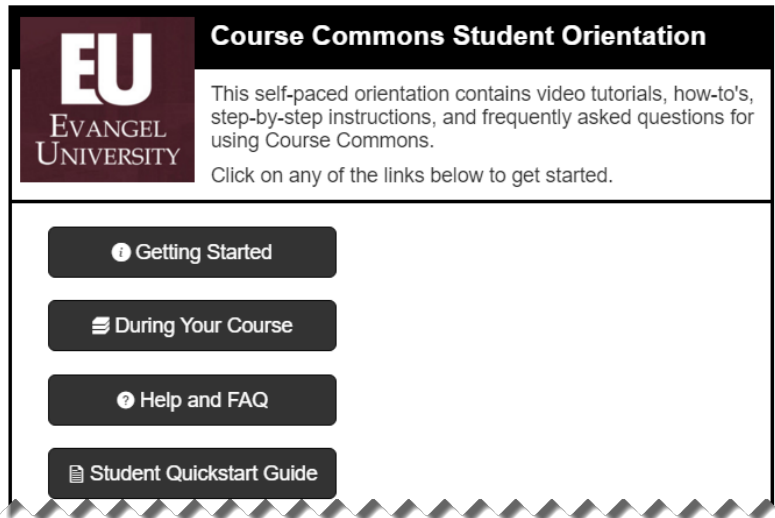
This course will use Course Commons, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is <https://courses.evangel.com/>.



Use your Evangel username and password to login.

Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

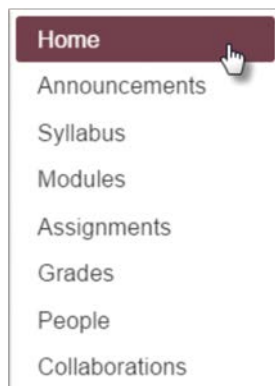
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.

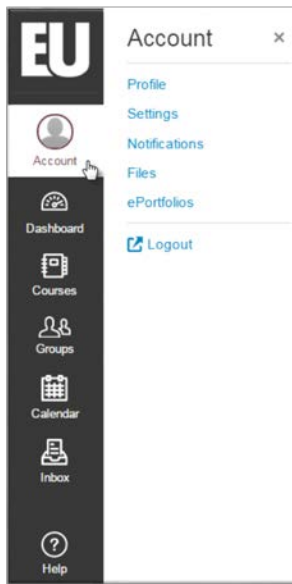


You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.

All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu.

Personal Settings in Course Commons



Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons.

The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from Course Commons and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

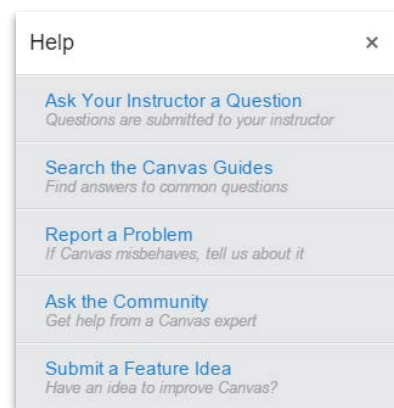
How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Help menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Help icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Help menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

You can browse and search the Help Guides using the following link: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/>.



Course Commons Troubleshooting

Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course? Contact your professor.

Are you having technical problems with Course Commons? Click the Help icon, click “Report a Problem” and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)? Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), helpdesk@evangel.edu (email), or help.evangel.edu.