

Course Syllabus
MIN 102: Theological Research and Academic Writing
SPRING 2012
Anglican School of Ministry
Little Rock, Arkansas
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TEXTS:

A Very Short Guide to Academic Writing by Mark Quay (Available from ASM at no cost)
Quality Research Papers by Nancy Vyhmeister, Second Edition
How to Read a Book by Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, Revised and Updated Edition

METHOD: Lecture and seminar style discussions by teleconference. Students may also interact by email and blog posts.

The **COURSE PURPOSE** is to provide the student a practical foundation in the preparation of academic writing assignments. The student will acquire both the requisite skills to write a successful paper and an understanding of the correct methods of argumentation.

COURSE GOALS: The student will be familiar with:

- preliminary steps in writing the paper
- general formatting; including the title page, headings, and margins
- use of key words throughout the text
- development of a coherent scholarly argument
- scholarly language
- proper attribution of research sources
- correct bibliographical techniques
- MLA and Turabian style

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To respect scholarly publications and to avoid plagiarism
- To support interaction with opposing viewpoints
- To develop clear thinking and writing skills

ASSIGNMENTS: Students will make presentations of approximately 5 minutes based upon assigned readings. Student will create and distribute a brief outline of the presentation by email to the class and instructor no less than two days before class. Students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss the sections that are presented.

ASSESSMENT will be based on class presentations and final writing assignment, consisting of a three page paper on a theological subject in Turabian or MLA style with at

minimum of 3 bibliographic citations (excluding your Bible). Final grade will be “pass/fail.”

FACULTY: Mr. Pat Lynch is a graduate of the Anglican School of Ministry (DipThSt) and a Licensed Lay Minister in the Anglican Mission.

LESSON ONE:

Lynch: Intro to academic writing. Why it matters.

Vyhmeister (1-26)

What is research?

Using the library

Taming the internet

Adler (16-44)

Chpt. 3: The first level of reading: elementary reading

Chpt. 4: The second level of reading: inspectional reading

Adler (45-56)

Chpt. 5: How to be a demanding reader

Discussion: all students

LESSON TWO:

Vyhmeister (29-41)

Choosing the Topic

Planning the Research

Quay, Sections One and Two

The Introduction

The body

Quay, Section Three, Citations and Quotations

THE PROCESS OF ANALYTICAL READING

Adler (59-74)

Chpt. 6: Pigeonholing a book

Adler (75-95)

Chpt 7. X-Raying a book

Adler (96-113)

Chpt. 8: Coming to terms with an author

Adler (114-136)

Chpt. 9. Determining the author’s meaning

Discussion: all students

LESSON THREE

Lynch: Vyhmeister (103-123)

Organizing the paper

Writing the paper

Quay, Section Five, Formatting the paper

Vyhmeister: Formatting the paper (125-132)

Adler (137-151)

Chpt. 10. Criticizing a book fairly

Adler (234-254)

Chpt. 16 How to read history

Adler (313-325)

Chpt. 20 The fourth level of reading: syntopical reading

The Role of Inspection

The five steps

The need for objectivity

Discussion: all students

LESSON FOUR

Adler (290-295)

Two sections from Chpt. 16.

A note on theology

How to read “canonical” books

Adler (296-305)

How to read social science

Quay Section Four, General Guidelines

Vyhmeister, Tips for the Typist (251)

Vyhmeister, Book Reviews (183)

Discussion: all students