

THE WORD OF GOD INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NEW TESTAMENT RESEARCH STUDY I

Fall 2016

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Required Books: Encountering the New Testament
by Walter Elwell and Robert Yarbrough
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association®
Sixth Edition by American Psychological Association

A General Statement About The Course:

New Testament Research Study is an opportunity for you develop research skills to investigate a topic of your own choosing. Any topic related to your calling in the ministry is acceptable. So, chose something that gives step by step the “How to”... You will present your findings in a thesis. You are expected to demonstrate:

1. a good understanding of Biblical research concept and method,
2. the ability to reason and exercise critical thinking, and
3. the ability to communicate clearly, in both written form.

The thesis must be 150 pages (30,000 words), double space. The quality and clarity of your writing skills is all that matters. Keep in mind that the paper should reflect sufficient work to earn 6 credits for the year; do not expect to throw something together at the last minute and pass the class.

Your thesis will be published as a textbook and workbook. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that you look at thesis in order to get an idea of what is required to earn a grade in the class.

The first part of the course will follow a lecture format on the New Testament. The following lectures will focus on how to write a thesis and instruction on New Testament research. A few days will be reserved for other purposes.

At the appropriate time, the class will be divided into small “writing groups.” Members of the groups will read the papers of the other members of their group. They will then make suggestions to improve both the paper’s content and style. Revised drafts will then be submitted to the instructor to grade.

Writing is an essential skill that has largely been neglected in university education. We're told over and over that good writing skills are rare, necessary and valuable. One important mission of this course is to help you to improve your writing.

A tentative list of dates to observe:

- December 14: General List of Research Sources deadline.
- January 18: Presentations of research topic and sources begin.
- January 31: Thesis Research/Topic Approval deadline. (Review Synopsis)
- February 1-28: Thesis Proposal deadline and Weekly Writing Reviews
- February 31: Outline and References Approval (Review Synopsis)
- April 30: Semi-Final Draft deadline. (Review Synopsis)
- May 31: Final Drafts of Thesis paper deadline. (Review Synopsis)
- June 30: Published Textbook and Workbook deadline.

An outline of the associated readings:

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
FALL TERM	
I. Introduction	APA Manual, pages 3-8
II. Researching for Thesis	APA Manual, pages 9-20
WINTER TERM	
III. Organizing your Thesis	APA Manual, pages 21-59
IV. Writing your Thesis	APA Manual, pages 61-124
SPRING TERM	
V. Citing your Thesis	APA Manual, pages 169-192
VI. Referencing for Thesis	APA Manual, pages 193-224
SUMMER TERM	
VII. The Publication Process	APA Manual, pages 225-244

Grades:

It is essential for you to understand that this course is more about the process of research than just about writing a thesis. You must receive a grade above a B in order to pass this class. Consequently, a failure to do any part of the course can, and typically will, automatically earn you a FAIL if you do not earn an A or B.

I want to re-emphasize the importance of writing and research skills for your ministry (READ: Habakkuk 2:2). It is worth your time to work hard to improve your skills. Read the APA Manual. Spend time writing and rewriting your thesis. And remember that education is not something you buy; education is a process that improves you. It is a prize that must be won with great effort.