

DM 9392/CM 9392
Research Methodology
January 2018
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Professor of World Christianities and Mission Studies
Director of Doctor of Ministry Program
January 2-5 from 1:30-4:30pm and January 8 from 6-8:30pm
(If you are going to stay in the old curriculum and you have not taken DM 9014, you need to
take DM 9392)

Course Description:

This course provides the students with tools and skills to develop and strengthen academic research and writing. Students learn to structure and format an academic professional paper, providing a model for their project proposal (DM 9394) and guidance for their practicum (DM 9396). The course encourages students to critically reflect on the practices of ministry and learn to interpret those practices within an academic theological framework.

Resources:

Nancy Jean Vyhmeister and Terry Dwain Robertson, *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology (Third Edition)*. Zondervan, 2014. (Referred below as WQRP).

Wayne C. Booth, et.al., *The Craft of Research (Fourth Edition)*. The University of Chicago Press, 2016. (Referred below as CR)

William Strunk Jr. & E.B. White, *The Elements of Style (Forth Edition)*. Foreword by Roger Angell. Allyn & Bacon, 2000. (Referred below as EOS)

****These resources will also be used for DM 9394**

Requirements:

Pre-class Assignments: Due between December 15-29, 2017 at 5:00pm, send to ccardoza@smu.edu

- (1) Read: CR, Section 1, chapt 1 & 2; Section 2, chapt 3-6
- (2) Read: WQRP, Chapters 1, 3-7, 9-10; 11, 14-16
- (3) Write 5-7 pages, double-space paper, with proper citation notes addressing the following questions: (1) what is my role as a minister who is engaged in research for my writing project? (2) How do the expectations of good research connect with my Christian vocation as a minister completing a professional ministry degree? (3) How does my theology contribute (or impede) my research?

Class assignments during the week:

- (1) Be ready to discuss the assigned readings and your pre-class assignment paper;
- (2) Complete some of the readings assigned in the calendar below;

- (3) Complete the template below with a bibliography. Be sure that you answer the questions or reply to the statements with: (a) clarity of the problem/question and the way it connects with the other courses—DM 9394; DM 9396; DM 9398.
- (4) Write a short 3-4 pages paper addressing the following questions: (i) as you think about your writing project, what will be the nature of your research? (ii) Imaging: How will the nature of your research shape your practicum and experience and how will your practicum experience shape your research? What methodologies do you see yourself using as you imaging your practicum and your writing project?

Post-class assignment—TBD and coordinated in class

- (1) An online session will be coordinated after the instructor has evaluated the papers for group discussion—a chat session using either ZOOM or the Chat app in Canvas.

Calendar:

Tuesday, January 2: Introduction to the Course
Inquiry and Research as a Vocation: A Personal Journey

Wed, January 3: Discussion of Papers, focusing on CR readings

Thursday, January 4: Guest Presenter: Reference librarians from Bridwell
Bridwell Resources and Beyond

Friday, January 5: Revisiting Research Methodologies for Writing Projects
Review of readings from WQRP

Monday, January 8: Research, the Practicum, Timeline, Outline and Notes for future Writing
6:00-8:30pm

Minority Concerns and the Perkins Curriculum

In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to all courses except those in the area of Ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors which will give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in society at large.

2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominantly white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.

3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide--in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses--opportunities (1) for women students and students from ethnic minority groups to pursue their study with special reference to their own status or tradition and (2) for all students

to become acquainted with the special problems and conditions that affect women and ethnic minority groups in human society.

SMU Disability Accommodations

Southern Methodist University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with your professor to make appropriate arrangements for the course work in this class.

DM 9392
Research and Method
Template for Final Document

Document Due: TBD, End of January 2018

1. **The Problem:** (State the problem that generates interest for you to do research. Be specific about the details of the problem.)
2. **Seeking for the Research Question:** (1) Take notes, write a journal with your thoughts and thinking process to get to the “research question(s).” (2) Based on the notes/journal write a couple of paragraphs that illustrate/narrate how you came to the “final” research question(s).
3. **State the research question(s) for your writing project.** Write a couple of paragraphs *unfolding the details* of your question(s)—thoughts, ideas, where does your imagination take you when you think about the question(s). Do not re-state the problem; do not offer a solution to the problem. Exegete your question(s).
4. **Project your research resources and plan for writing.** Write two to three paragraphs naming resources and a plan that you want to execute for writing. Include in your plan for writing strategies to keep notes—free writing—where to keep them, what medium to keep them, etc. You might be a ways before beginning this writing project, yet, the idea is to get you thinking, imagining, and organizing the work you will do.
5. **The practicum and your writing project (DM 9394; DM 9396 & DM 9398)** DM 9392, 9394, 9396 & 9398 are all connected. Take time to think how will you use your practicum as a source that informs your writing project. Remember, your writing project is not a report of your practicum and your practicum is not the center of your writing project. Task to do: as you consider working on your practicum, how will the practicum help you focus on your writing project? (Write a couple of paragraphs addressing this question)
6. **Bibliography and timetable.** Provide a bibliography of the materials you have used so far to get to your question(s). You can also include additional bibliography, including bibliography that might help you in the organization of your practicum.
7. **Timetable.** Prepare a timetable, with courses to be taken, when to be taken—be as specific as you can. Include in this section your advisor, second reader, and field supervisor.
8. **Reflection on the Theological Task of Research for Ministry.** In a page, reflect on why your research is theological and how is it grounded in your ministerial vocation. In other words, what is theological and vocational about your practicum, research, and writing project?