

THEO 5002: Graduate Thesis I

1st Term 2020/2021; Friday 9:30-11:15am Online

Course Instructors:

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I. Aim of the Course

This course is designed to facilitate M.Div./BD students in their graduate thesis writing. Students are to write a graduate thesis of 20,000 words under the supervision of their individual thesis supervisor.

II. Learning Outcomes:

Following the instruction and timetable set by this course and through online/in-class discussions and thesis writing skill practice, students are expected to submit their thesis on time by the end of May 2021. **It is important to note that late submission may lead to a delay in graduation.**

III. Learning Activities

A) Lectures:

Lectures/individual advisory meetings/group seminars are scheduled in some weeks. The eLearning system Blackboard/group email will serve as a discussion and information exchange forum.

B) Seminars:

Students will be divided into three groups for the seminars.

C) Meetings with thesis supervisor:

Students shall meet/communicate with their individual thesis supervisor no less than three times during the first semester.

D) Extra meeting by appointment:

Outside of the scheduled lectures and seminars, students are welcomed to make an appointment for individual or group discussion/meeting with the assigned course instructor. Please contact the assigned course instructor with the contact details provided above.

E) Class schedule:

(All sessions will be conducted online.)

Week	Content	Working Plan
(Prep) 4/9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a research topic Consult teachers at Divinity School and invite one to be your thesis supervisor
#1 11/9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit research topic and confirm supervisor
#2 18/9	Lecture (CCT T21; 9:30am-12nn): * Course outline (10 min) * Research skills (Christina, 20 mins) * Format & citation (Sonia, 20 mins) * Writing skills (Bryan, 20 mins) * Q & A (10 mins) * Group sessions: How to start in (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructive & Systematic Theology Church History & Practical Theology Biblical Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of interest Scope of thesis Presentation Arrangement Select time slot (~25 mins) for individual sessions
#3 25/9	Individual sessions (9am-1pm): * Individual discussion with the assigned course instructor	
2/10	(No. Class. Public holiday)	
#4 9/10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Thesis Proposal begins.
#5 16/10	Seminar (9:30am-12:30am): * Individual presentation of thesis proposal and group discussion	Follow the same discussion format as Faculty-Student Seminar: Presentation (5 mins) Response (5 mins)
#6 23/10	Seminar (9:30am-12:30am): * Individual presentation of thesis proposal and group discussion	Presenter's response (5 mins) Class discussion (20 mins) Instructor's feedback (5 mins)
#7 30/10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the revised proposal to supervisor and course instructor, and a summary report of the first supervisory session
#8 6/11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of reading summary
#9 13/11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the first complete chapter begins.

#10 20/11	Seminar (9:30am-12:30pm): * Individual presentation of the first complete chapter and group discussion	Follow the same discussion format as Faculty-Student Seminar: Presentation (5 mins) Response (5 mins)
#11 27/11	Seminar (9:30am-12:30pm): * Individual presentation of the first complete chapter and group discussion	Presenter's response (5 mins) Class discussion (20 mins) Instructor's feedback (5 mins)
#12 4/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the revised chapter to supervisor and course instructor, and a summary report of the second supervisory session

IV. Assessment Scheme (based on Paper-Grading Rubric System)

1. Thesis Proposal 25%
Thesis proposal shall include 1) thesis title, 2) research aim and question, 3) brief literature review, 4) tentative thesis, 5) table of content, and 6) bibliography.
2. Reading Summary 10%
Students are required to submit a reading summary of at least **5 books or articles** which are related to their thesis topic with **no less than 5 pages** (1.5 line spacing, font size 12), stating particularly the relevance of the readings to writing the thesis.
3. First Complete Chapter (any chapter, 8-10 pages) 25%
[Assessment: Argument (5%), Counter-Arguments (2%), Analysis (5%); Organization (5%), Writing Style (5%), Citation and Format (3%)]
4. Two Responses to a Classmate's Work 10%
Each student is to submit two written responses, one to a thesis proposal and the other to a chapter submitted by a classmate.
5. Two Reports of Meetings with Supervisor 20%
Students are to meet his/her thesis supervisor regularly and at three times. Two written reports are to be submitted after the two supervisory sessions on 25 October 2019 and 6 December 2019 respectively. Each report shall consist of a one-paragraph summary of the supervisors' advice.
6. Participation 10%
Should a foreseeable event occurs that may result in tardiness or absence, the student is required to notice the instructor in advance. Unexcused tardiness or absence would lead to mark deduction.

(The assigned course instructor will suggest a final grade to the supervisor based on the assessment scheme, but the supervisor may adjust the grade according to the academic potential of the research thesis and individual learning paces.)

V. Other Instructions

- Students shall contact **full-time Divinity School teachers** for supervision. Exceptional cases may apply under the permission of Graduate Thesis course instructors.
- Group discussion of thesis proposal and the first complete chapter: Same pattern with FSS
 - Students shall present according to the presentation schedule.
 - For the rundown of each presentation, see Class Schedule above.
 - Presenters shall submit their works one week before the presentation.
 - Respondents are required to submit a one-page written response the day before the presentation.
- All assignments shall be submitted to Group Discussion Forum on Blackboard. Deduction of marks applies to late submission:

Late Submissions	Mark Deduction
1 Day	2 Marks
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64

- File name format

Assignment	File name
Thesis Proposal	GT_TP_YAM Ho Yan (rev)
Reading Summary	GT_RS_YAM Ho Yan
First Complete Chapter	GT_1CH_YAM Ho Yan (rev)
Response	GT_1CH_YAM Ho Yan_Response
Report of Supervisory Session	GT_Report 1 [or 2]_YAM Ho Yan