

THEO 5002: Graduate Thesis I

1st Term 2022-2023; Friday 9:30-11:15am, CCT T31

Course Instructor:

Christina Wong (Church History; Practical Theology);

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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. They are expected to submit their thesis on time by the end of May 2023. **It is important to note that late submission may lead to a delay in graduation.**

II. Learning Outcomes:

Following the instruction by and timetable set by this course and the guidance of individual thesis supervisor, students are expected to meet the following learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge Outcomes:

- In-depth understanding of the chosen topic in theological studies;
- Research on and organization of primary and secondary materials;

2. Skills Outcomes:

- Developing a concrete, relevant, and sounded research topic;
- Conducting an independent research;
- Demonstrate a basic academic writing skill;

3. Attitude Outcomes:

- Familiar with and aware of survey research and publication ethics.

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 two groups for the seminars.

C) Meetings with thesis supervisor:

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

D) Additional 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 course instructor.

E) Class schedule:

(All sessions will be conducted face-to-face.)

Week	Content	Working Plan
(Prep) 9/9	No Class Watch online lectures on Blackboard * Research skills (Christina, 30 mins) * Format & citation (Sonia, 30 mins) * Writing skills (Bryan Mok, 30 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a research topic • Consult full-time teachers at Divinity School and invite one to be your thesis supervisor
16/9	Lecture (CCT T31; 9:30am-11:15am) * Course outline (15 min) * Q & A on Research skills, Format & citation, Writing skills (30 mins) * Group sessions: How to begin in (60 mins) * Biblical Studies (Sonia, YCT LG201) * Church History; Practical Theology (Christina, CCT T31) * Constructive & Systematic Theology (Francis Yip, CCT T41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of interest • Scope of thesis
23/9	Lecture (CCT T31; 9:30am-11:15am): How to do Human-Subject Research (Christina, 1 hour) * Format & Citation and Plagiarism Quizzes (45 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit research topic and confirm supervisor • PC or smart phone is required for taking the quizzes.
30/9	Individual sessions (9am-12:30pm): * For those who haven't confirmed topic and supervisor.	
7/10	(No. Class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of Thesis Proposal begins on 10/10.
14/10	Seminar: Divide into 2 Groups (A: 9:00am-10:30am; B: 10:45am-12:15pm): * Individual presentation of thesis proposal and group discussion: Presentation (5 mins) Response (5 mins)	
21/10	Presenter's response (3 mins) Class discussion (12 mins) Instructor's feedback (5 mins)	
28/10		
4/11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of the revised proposal to supervisor and course instructor, and the summary report of the first supervisory session

11, 18 & 25/11	(No. Class)	
2/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of the 1st chapter to thesis 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 30%
Thesis proposal shall include 1) thesis title, 2) research aim and question, 3) a brief literature review, 4) tentative thesis, 5) table of content, and 6) bibliography.
2. Format & Citation and Plagiarism Quizzes 10%
3. First Complete Chapter (any chapter, 8-10 pages) 30%
[Assessment: Arguments (7%), Counter-Arguments (3%), Analysis (7%); Organization (5%), Writing Style (5%), Citation and Format (3%)]
4. One Response to a Classmate's Work 5%
Each student is to submit one written response of a thesis proposal by a classmate.
5. Two Summary Reports of Meetings with Supervisor 20% (@10%)
Each student is to meet his/her thesis supervisor regularly and at least three times. Two written reports of the supervisory sessions are to be submitted on 4 November 2022 and 2 December 2022 respectively. Each report shall consist of a one-paragraph summary of the supervisors' advice and/or comments.
6. Participation 5%
Should a foreseeable event occur 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 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

- Student shall invite a **full-time Divinity School teacher** to be his/her thesis supervisor. Exceptional case must be approved by the Graduate Thesis course instructor.
- Presentation and group discussion of thesis proposal follow the same pattern of the Faculty-Student Seminar.
 - Students shall present according to the presentation schedule.

- For the rundown of each presentation, see Class Schedule above.
- Presenters shall submit their works 5 days before the presentation (on Monday).
- Respondents are required to submit a one-page written response the day before the presentation.
- VeriGuide submission is not required until the final complete draft in May 2023.
- All assignments shall be submitted to Group Discussion Forum on Blackboard. Deduction of marks may apply to late submission:

Late Submission	Mark Deduction
1 day	1 subgrade
2 days	2 subgrades
3 days	3 subgrades
4 days	4 subgrades

- 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_[+Respondent's Name]
Report of Supervisory Session	GT_Report 1 [or 2]_YAM Ho Yan